

## **TAIWAN STRAITS SPECIAL**

- Birthday Celebrations for a Goddess
- Western Shores of the Straits
- A Taiwan Trio (Kaohsiung • Penghus • Tainan)







# 首都賓館

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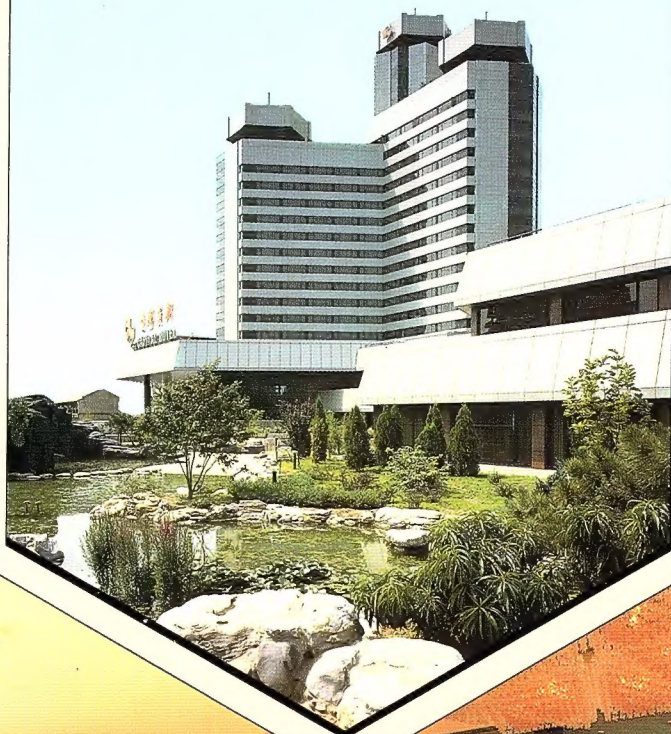
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# EDITORIAL

## Link Across the Waters

Almost two hundred kilometres separate the prosperous island of Taiwan from Fujian Province on the Chinese mainland. And yet the links are strong, despite the different historical development. Fujianese seamen and traders played a large role in Taiwan, and it was Zheng Chenggong (Koxinga), the Ming-dynasty loyalist from Fujian, who recaptured Taiwan from the Dutch in 1661. At least half the inhabitants of Kaohsiung, the major port city in southwestern Taiwan, can claim to be descended from Fujianese immigrants.

In this issue we are pleased to present a double-pronged investigation of the celebrations for Mazu's birthday held on the twenty-third day of the third lunar month on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. Since the whole cult of the popular Goddess of the Sea (also known as Tianhou) was introduced to Taiwan by Fujianese devotees, it is hardly surprising that the basic elements are much the same. We also take the opportunity to explore some of the small, remote places in coastal Fujian which until recently were closed to tourists for security reasons. By way of contrast, on the other side of the Straits, we visit a couple of cities in southwestern Taiwan — one ancient, the other modern — as well as the wind-swept, rugged Penghu Archipelago.

With articles on a wide range of other themes, a mass of practical travel tips and an extensive hotel directory for Fujian and Taiwan, this is an issue which should keep you fascinated over the holiday season ahead. It comes with our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

No. 126

DECEMBER 1990

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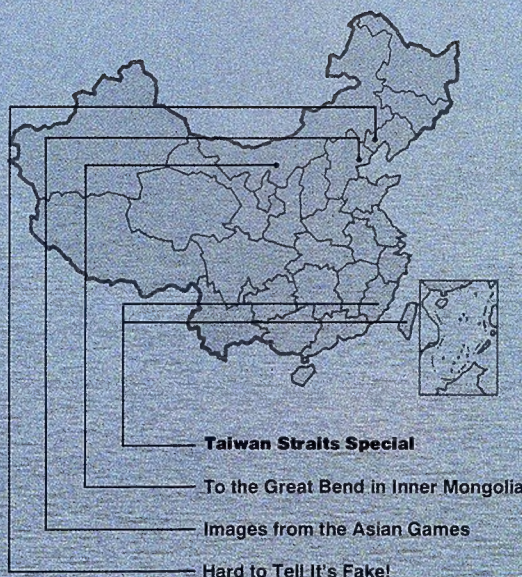
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the Mazu statue his ancestors brought with them  
from Fujian (by Tai Chi Yin)

**is page:** A Matsu temple on the Penghus  
(by Tai Chi Yin)





# Birthday Celebrations for a Goddess



**M**azu is without doubt the most popular deity along the coasts of China, as well as in Chinese communities all over Southeast Asia. She is the Goddess of the Sea, the 'patron saint' of fishermen and all seafarers, and is also known as Tianhou, the Heavenly Empress.

The historical person behind the legend is said to have been a girl surnamed Lin, who was born into a Fujianese fisherman's family in 960 during the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127). Legend relates that she did not utter a cry for a whole month after birth, so her father gave her the nickname Mo Niang (Silent Lady).

Mo Niang drowned at the age of only twenty-eight. It is said that, the day she died, villagers of Meizhou Island off the coast of Fujian Province saw multicoloured clouds rising from Mount Meifeng and

heard drums and music. The story arose that Mo Niang had become an immortal. Not long after, the local people built a temple at the place where she was thought to have ascended to heaven, and gave her the title Mazu (Ancestral Grandmother).

Her birthday is celebrated on the twenty-third day of the third lunar month, which falls in April or early May of the Gregorian calendar.

Last April we despatched two reporters to cover Mazu's birthday celebrations: one to Fujian Province, the other to Taiwan. There are slight differences in the manner of celebrating on either side of the Taiwan Straits, but one thing remains invariable ... the heartfelt wish: 'May the wind drop and the waves be calm in the Straits.'



# Where the Legend Was Born: Meizhou Island

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY PENG ZHENG

I was told by contacts that, since the troops stationed on Meizhou Island left in 1983, joss-sticks are again being lit in the Mazu Temple there and the annual celebrations are as lively as ever. I was also warned that there are only one or two hotels on the island, so most pilgrims are forced to spend the night in the open!

**April 16, 1990**

It was still drizzling when I left Putian early in the morning on this, the twenty-first day of the third lunar month. Mr Lin, my



2



The approach to Meizhou Island's Mazu Temple is packed (1) as boats continue to bring ever more pilgrim groups (3). Offerings are prepared locally (2) and elderly women don 'Mazu clothes' (4, by Lin Jian).

3

guide (I soon started to address him as Little Lin), told me that Lin Moniang was actually born in the village of Gangli in the township of Zhongmen, just across the water from Meizhou Island. Her family home is now the Tianhou Zumiao (Ancestral Temple of the Heavenly Empress).

So first we headed for Gangli. The temple stands on the shore and, although slightly larger than the ordinary fishermen's houses, looks more or less the same. It has three courtyards, built one after the other on a central axis. At the entrance there burnt a two-metre-high joss-stick as thick as a rice pot, painted vividly with a dragon. It would burn, I was told, for three days and nights without cease. Right behind the first courtyard was a gallery which led to the main hall. A statue of Mazu stood in the centre of this hall, which was anything but silent and contemplative. Twenty to thirty middle-aged and elderly women were lined up on both sides of the statue singing Mazu's praises, accompanied by a lively folk orchestra. In the rear hall there were



4







two other statues: they represented Lin's parents. Exiting through a side door from the rear hall, we saw the ancient well from which the young girl would have fetched water. Beside the well a path leads to a green hill at the back from where there is a panoramic view of the village and Meizhou Island several kilometres away over the sea.

Little Lin took me to spend the night in the home of a local person. It was a four-storey building built around a courtyard. Three of the sides were stone buildings in traditional style, while the fourth was a modern reinforced concrete structure built with funds provided by the family's relatives in Taiwan. We were to stay in the latter building. Little Lin explained that there is no hotel as yet in the village, but the villagers are happy to put visitors up.

**April 17**

The rain stopped at dawn. Having said goodbye to our hospitable host and his family, we were on our way again. The road was choked with traffic. Finally, we had to get off the bus and join the human flood which surged alongside a mountain, luggage on backs, as far as the port of Wenjia.

We eventually boarded a large wooden junk, filled to capacity. On our way across to the island, we passed several other ferries, all equally crowded. As we approached the quayside at Meizhou Island, I noticed a dozen boats taking on or discharging passengers. And there were another twelve still waiting to berth!

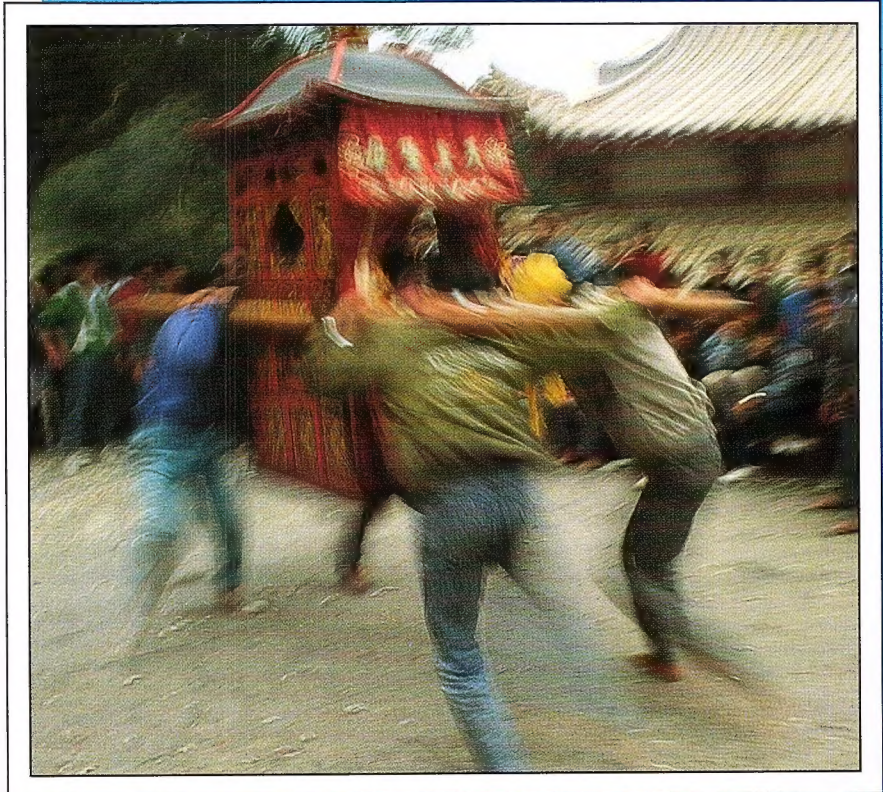
We climbed wide stone steps to the square in front of the temple — the imposing Tianhou Temple, made in 987, the first temple erected to honour Mazu. The temple is fronted by a tall archway under which was an incense-burner with a huge joss-stick burning in it, identical to the one at Gangli.

In the temple's renovated main hall and rear chamber there were sacrificial offerings and several scores of figurines of the goddess in various sizes. My guide told me that these belonged to devotees who put them here for the rites of consecration called *fenxiang*, intended to imbue them with the spirit of Mazu.

The *fenxiang* ceremony begins when four young men arrive bearing a Mazu image in an elaborate sedan-chair. To the sound of gongs, the sedan-chair is carried into the first courtyard of the temple. Then the four young men stand facing each other, the sedan-chair still on their shoulders. Like wrestlers, they push against each other, their steps unsteady, breathing heavily, while the sedan-chair rocks and revolves almost as though it were dancing. From time to time two elderly people bang huge gongs, five long beats at a time. The sound lingers, dull and deep. Some of the sedan-chair bearers are barefoot — their feet start to bleed after a while. After ten minutes or so, with a yell the young men rush back down the slope to the square before the entrance archway. They dance there for some time before rushing up the hill again. This is repeated three times in all.

Having observed them for almost an hour, I began to understand the significance of what I was seeing. The rocking, whirling sedan-chair must represent a boat tossed on the stormy sea, while the kind-hearted goddess seated steadily inside the sedan-chair gives the boatmen hope and courage. The gongs were the cries for help at sea.

For more than one thousand years, Mazu has been watching over fishermen on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, and her effigy has adorned ordinary fishing boats as well as imperial vessels. During the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), the eunuch admiral Zheng He led imperial fleets to the Malay Peninsula, Java, Sumatra, India, Arabia and the east coast of Africa no less than seven times. Although he himself was a Moslem, many of his crew were Fujianese men, and he performed advance ceremonies to Tianhou each time. He twice visited Meizhou Island in person to seek Mazu's protection for his ventures.



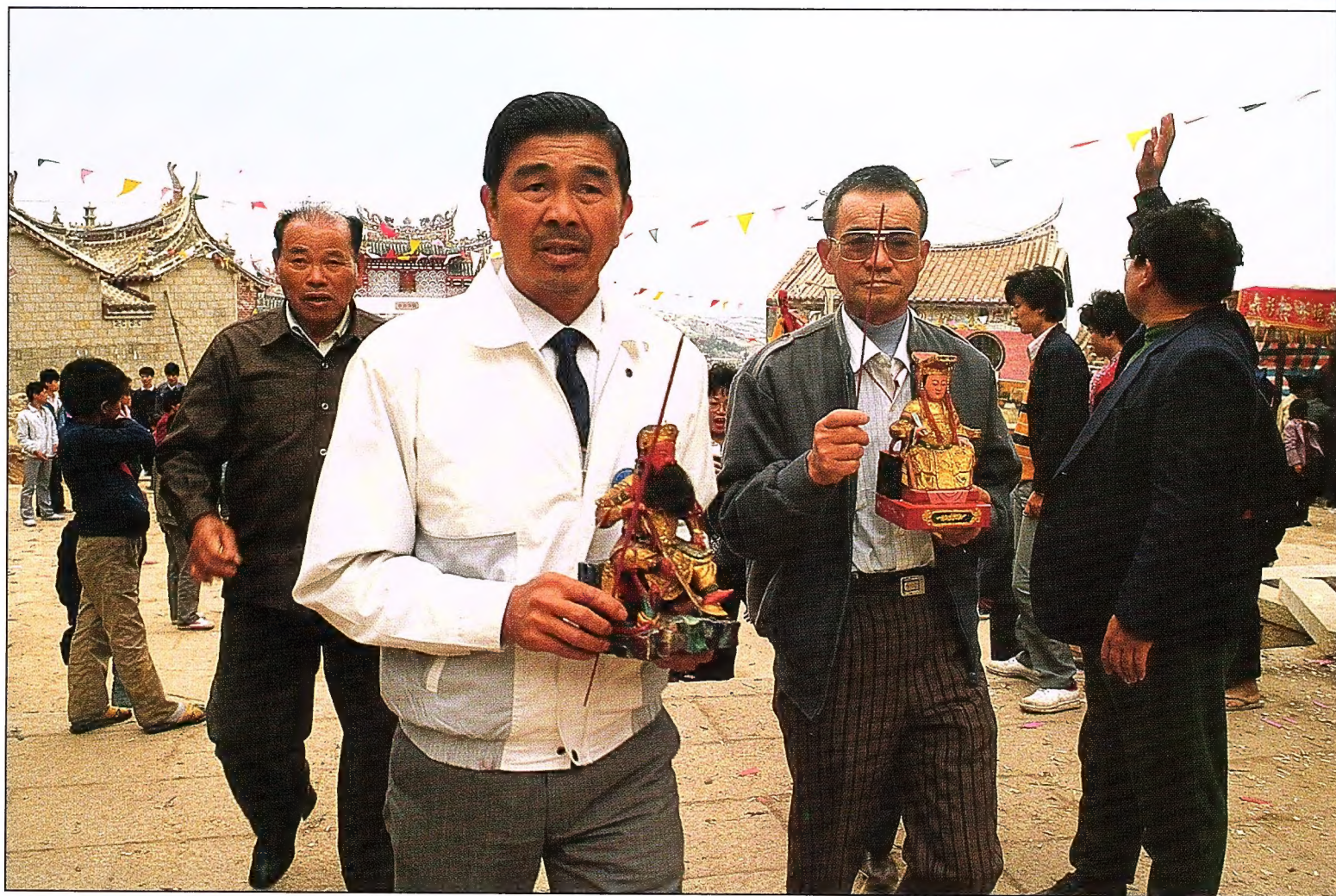
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A series of paintings from the Qing dynasty depicts Mazu's doings (1, by Zheng Jie); the solid gold seal granted by Emperor Daoguang in 1839, a temple treasure (3, by Lin Jian). Part of the *fenxiang* rite evokes the perils of the deep (2).





1

### April 18

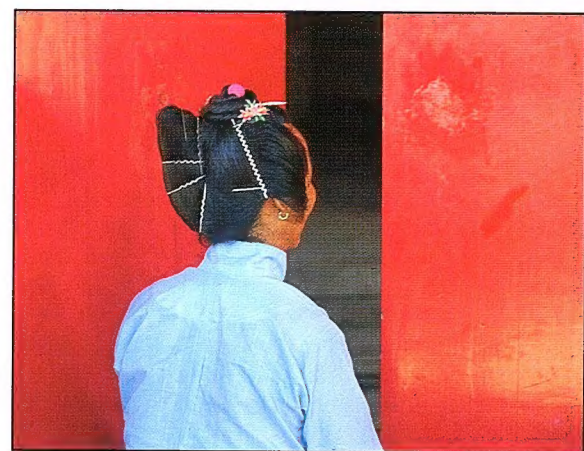
The hotel we stayed in was named Chaoyin Keshe (Wave Sound Inn). It was built on a cliff by the sea. When the waves dash over the rocks, they produce a booming noise — the characteristic sound of Meizhou Island.

Neither rain nor indeed the crashing of the waves ceased the whole night through ... or so I was told. Me, I slept like a log! I was woken with the news that the rain had stopped and that many fishing boats loaded with pilgrims from Taiwan were approaching the island.

The space in front of the temple was packed with people on this, the climax of the celebrations. Incense smoke lingered in the air and firecrackers exploded non-stop. Long processions of pilgrims holding streamers and statues of Mazu were arriving, often with musicians beating drums and gongs and lion dancers leading the way. The pilgrims from Taiwan stood out since they were all wearing baseball hats! Some were carrying images of Mazu they had brought all the way from Taiwan.

The three elderly women who look after the administrative affairs of the temple were all attired in the fashion of Mazu: blue tunic and half-red, half-black trousers, with their hair coiled in a sort of flattened chignon shaped like a sail (or a shark's fin, come to think of it). I was told that only particularly respected women are allowed to dress like this, because this was what the goddess is said to have been wearing when she 'ascended to heaven'.

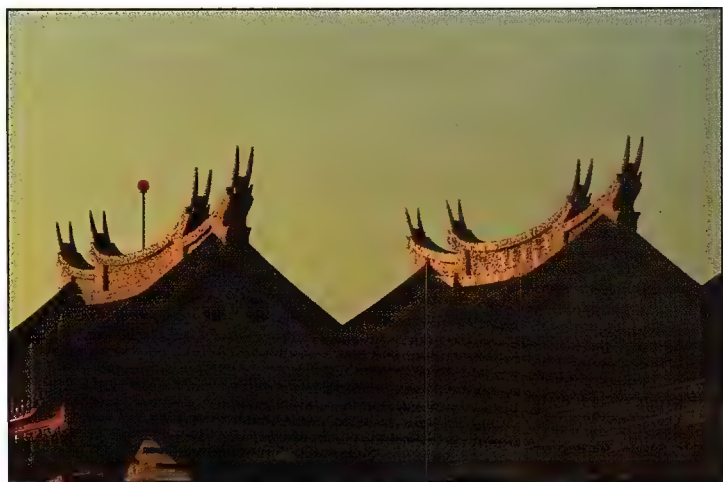
Translated by Wang Mingjie



2

*Devotees from Taiwan bring statuettes to be blessed at the 'mother' temple on Meizhou Island (1), while the traditional hairstyle is said to have been how Mazu wore her hair (2, by Lin Xiaoyu). The roof of a Matsuo temple in Taiwan's Peikang gleams after rain (3). The approach to the Chaotien Temple at Peikang during the parade of floats (4).*





# Matsu Fever Sweeps Taiwan

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY TAI CHI YIN

Some three hundred years ago, the cult of Matsu was introduced first to the Penghu Islands, then to Taiwan. Since more and more people from Fujian have settled in Taiwan in the interim, Matsu's influence has, not surprisingly, spread enormously. There are said to be more than three thousand Matsu temples in Taiwan, the largest and most famous being the Chaotien Temple in Peikang. I went there first.

## Peikang's Grand Procession

On the twentieth day of the third lunar month, four days before Matsu's birthday, I set off by car from Kaohsiung with a friend of mine. We drove north along the North-South Highway towards Chiayi, hoping to reach Peikang before noon so that we would be able to participate in the grand parade at the Chaotien (Leading to Heaven) Temple. This temple, considered the base of the Matsu sect in Taiwan, enjoys high prestige.

The traffic was heavy. We crawled along in a stream of cars, head to tail, for several kilometres in the driving rain. Every bus, coach, car, taxi, motor-bike and bicycle seemed to be headed in the same direction.

When we finally reached Peikang, northwest of Chiayi, we found the town full of commotion as people streamed towards the temple. The 200-metre-long street leading to the temple was already packed with several scores of colourfully decorated floats festooned with electric lights and carrying well-known singers. I could hear popular songs in the dialect of southern Fujian as well as in Mandarin, folk songs, English songs and even arias from local opera. Microphones and amplifiers were used to beef up the decibel levels! All of a sudden, the rain stopped and the sun came out. Some devotees claimed that the fact the rain had stopped was proof of the power of the goddess.

Pilgrimages are common in Taiwan at this time. Matsu temples and even Buddhist associations (Matsu is strictly speaking a Taoist goddess, but folk religion encompasses deities from all sides) in cities such as Taipei, Kaohsiung and Taichung are enthusiastic about organizing large groups of pilgrims to visit the renowned temples of central Taiwan. It is considered a great thing to go to an orthodox temple of Matsu. 'Orthodox' in this case







1



2



3

In Lukang, a workshop turns out lanterns for the religious festivities (1) while a sedan-chair for the goddess can cost up to one million NT\$ (4). Dragons adorn an incense-burner in a Matsu temple (3). A pilgrim dances unselfconsciously as though 'possessed' by the goddess (2). A Lukang woodcarver with a Matsu statue brought over from Quanzhou by his forefathers (5).



means a temple which houses an idol of Matsu brought from Meizhou Island in Fujian. The Chaotien Temple is one of these.

Legend has it that in 1694, during the Qing dynasty, a monk named Shu Bi passed through Peikang carrying a statue of Matsu from Meizhou Island. Since the people of Peikang were fervent devotees of Matsu and had already built a temple in her honour, the monk decided to deposit the idol in this temple, which grew to become the largest temple in Taiwan.

Pilgrim groups, each following a leader, continued to move towards the temple with streamers billowing before them. Immediately behind the leader walked a psychic or medium, a man able to mediate between the world of humans, the underworld and the heavens; he plays an important role in the *fenxiang* ceremony, when the goddess is invited to 'come' to the temple or enter a statue representing her, a rite which seems to be equivalent to consecration. You see these blessed figurines of Matsu being carried home reverentially from the temple, each in its sacred sedan-chair. They will be set up in a home or in another temple.

That evening we headed further north to the ancient township of Lukang, twenty-one kilometres from Taichung. We passed the night in a hotel on Chungshan Road.

### Cradle of the Traditional Arts

Lukang is well-known for its traditions as well as its some thirty Matsu temples. To the ominous rumbling of thunder the following morning, we left the hotel and walked along Chungshan Road which traverses the town from north to south. The road is flanked by two or three-storey buildings with shops on the ground floor, all of them with a long history. Mr Cai, my guide, told me that many traditional skills and techniques are preserved here to this day.

As we wandered along, gazing into the shops, most of which were also workshops, I realized that all of them were involved in some activity associated with Matsu. Pilgrims and devotees need to buy paper money for the underworld, incense, statues, and so on. In one shop, the assistants were busy painting huge lanterns which had been ordered especially by pilgrimage groups, either to carry in the procession or to hang in front of the temple.

As we turned a corner into a small street, we came upon a woodcarver's workshop. The owner, Wu Ching Po, claims to be the 'orthodox heir' of the Quanzhou school of carving. On the altar in his shop stood an ancient image of Matsu made and brought to Taiwan from Quanzhou by the first member of his family to come here. The face of the wooden statue was black, probably due to the effects of centuries of incense smoke. All his ancestors, Mr Wu said, had worshipped the Goddess of the Sea.

### Heavenly Empress Temple

After the long rain, the sky was a beautiful clear blue on April 17. We got up very early and hurried to the Tienhou (Heavenly Empress) Temple in northwestern Lukang. This is regarded as the 'ancestor' of all the Matsu temples of Taiwan, with a status in no way inferior to the Chaotien Temple in Peikang. Founded in 1647, it was built from stone shipped from Fujian. But the main reason for its fame is that the image of Matsu housed in this temple was brought here directly from the Tianhou Temple on Meizhou Island in 1683 by Shi Lang, a naval commander from Fujian. The Matsu statues in other temples in Taiwan have all been taken from the Tienhou Temple of Lukang through *fenxiang* rites. According to the temple records, this image of the goddess is one of three 'original' statues from Meizhou Island (one of the others is in the Philippines, the third in Yinxian in Zhejiang). So the statue in this temple in Lukang is the only 'original' in Taiwan, and is known as the 'Ancestral Goddess'.

The temple consists of two consecutive courtyards, each housing a statue of the goddess. The two-storeyed wings on either side are able to accommodate more than a thousand pilgrims. Since joss-sticks have been burning day and night in the hall for



4



5







such a long time, the originally pink face of the statue has turned black from the smoke: hence the nickname 'Dark-Faced Mother'.

Pilgrims started to arrive. Some of them even brought with them troupes of acrobats, lion dancers, folk dancers and so on, the spectacle attracting crowds of curious onlookers.

### Tainan's Archaic Tienhou Temple

On the morning of April 18, we drove back down south to Tainan, wanting to see how people in that old city celebrate the birthday of the Goddess of the Sea.

In Fujian, this — the twenty-third day of the third lunar month, Matsu's birthday — is the climax of the celebrations. But, strange to say, in Taiwan or at least in Tainan it was nowhere near as lively as the three days prior to the 'big day'.

The Tienhou Temple in Taiwan is situated in the city centre, hidden in a maze of zigzagging lanes. The approach to the temples in Peikang and Lukang is far more magnificent. However, what is



2



An actress in a play on Matsu's life performed near Peikang's Chaotien Temple (1) and a streetside shrine to the goddess in Lukang (2). The sampan which, unpiloted, brought a Matsu image safely across the Straits to Taiwan (3). White cockerels perched atop sedan-chairs carrying images of the goddess are an extra sign of piety (4).

unique about this one is the feeling of antiquity. The pilgrims seemed to me to be behaving in a more restrained, dignified fashion, and it was not as crowded as the other two temples had been. The statue of Matsu enshrined in the centre of the main hall is surrounded by other deities in charge of navigation, safety at sea, and so on.

A wooden sampan — a small boat — made one hundred years ago is exhibited in the Matsu Temple at Tucheng in the southern suburbs of Tainan. It is said to have had a statue of Matsu in it when it reached the coast of Taiwan. The extraordinary thing is that the boat had apparently been propelled solely by the wind, without any human hand in its voyage. The local belief is that this statue is an incarnation of the goddess. When we drove down to the shore later, where the waves surged and roared, I couldn't help thinking that it must have been a miracle indeed if that little boat had sailed all the way to the coast of Taiwan on its own!

Translated by Wang Mingjie

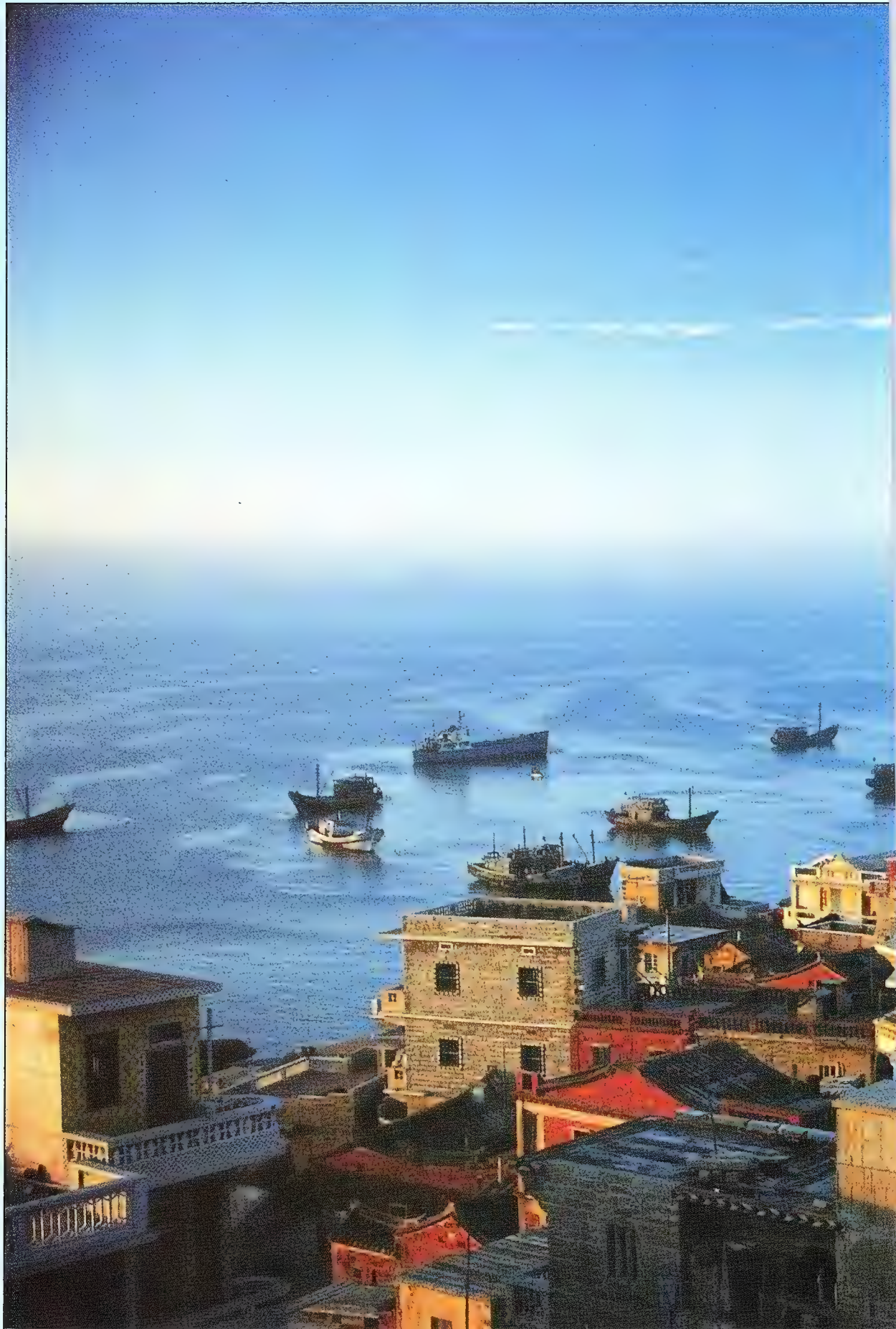


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TAIWAN *Straits* SPECIAL

# *Western Shores of the Straits*

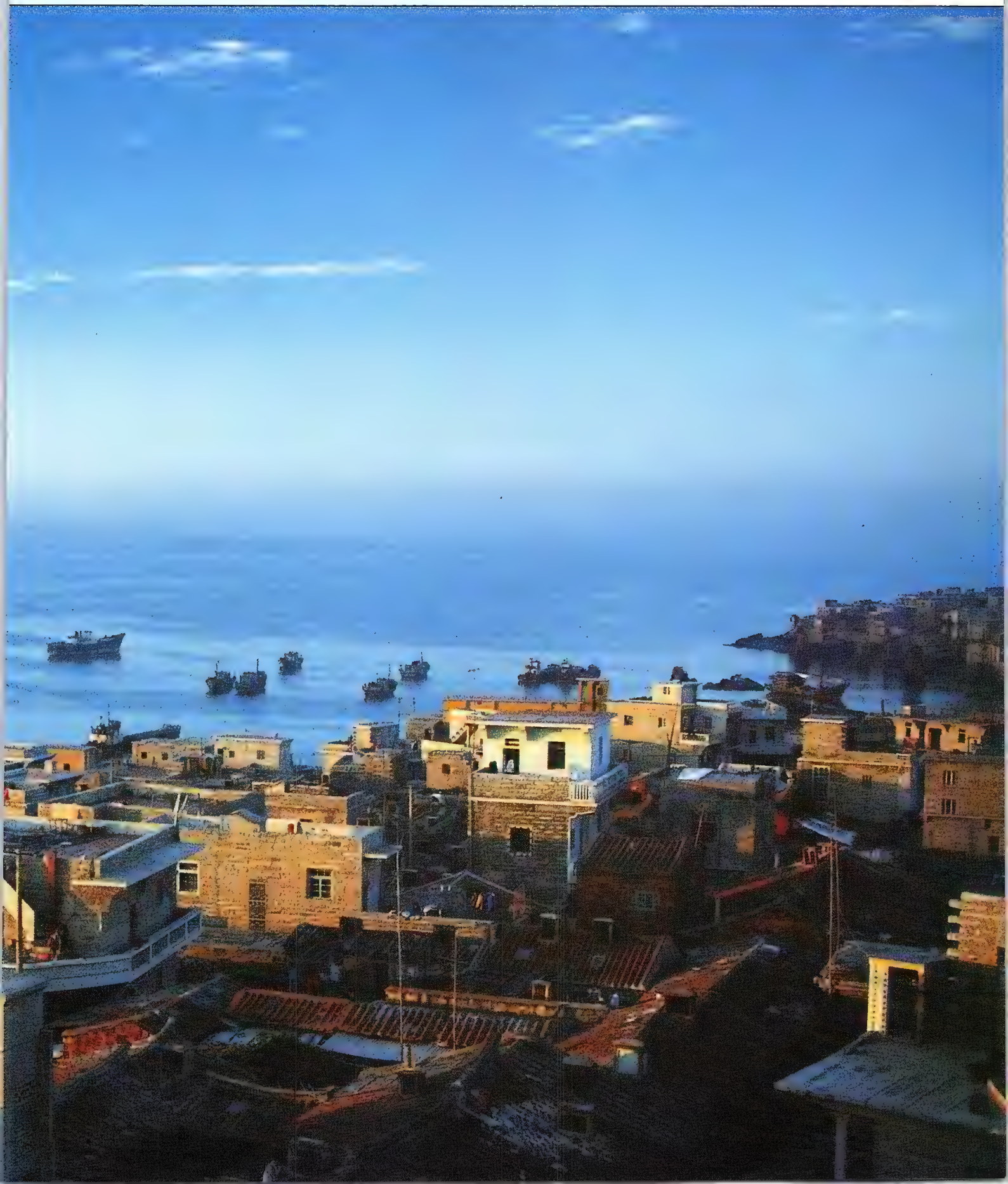


*Shenhu Bay in  
Jinjiang County is  
known as the 'home  
of beauties'*



**T**he western shores of the Taiwan Straits can be said to extend more or less from Dongshan Island at the southwestern tip of Fujian Province to the mouth of the River Minjiang east of Fuzhou. In the past, most of the places along this coastal strip were not open to the outside world for obvious security reasons. But in recent years, with the relaxation of the situation vis-à-vis visits from residents of Taiwan, many villages, townships and islands formerly out of bounds are now accessible.

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY AN GE









## Dongshan Island

Cut by promontories, the Fujianese coastline has numerous bays making ideal natural harbours. Along the coast there are myriads of islands, extensions of the coastal ranges rising on the continental shelf. Among them, to mention just a few of the main ones, are Xiamen, Dongshan, Jinmen, Nanri and Meizhou, the first two now linked to the mainland via causeways.

In this article I would like to introduce not the famous cities such as Fuzhou, Quanzhou and Xiamen, often dealt with in the past, but places off the beaten track, remote and rarely visited. From Shantou in eastern Guangdong Province I travelled east, following the coastline as closely as possible.

Little more than two hours by car from Shantou lies Dongshan which, with an area of 188 square kilometres, is Fujian's second largest island (the largest being Pingtan Island). Shaped something like a butterfly, it is sometimes referred to as Diedao (Butterfly Island). It has a population of around 150,000.

It is said that, in 1949, as many as nine thousand able-bodied islanders were forcibly taken across the sea to Taiwan. Several thousand young women were abandoned, most of them from the village of Tongbo on Dongshan. Today, more than forty years after these events, you can sometimes spot elderly men — obviously visitors from Taiwan — who have come back to see their surviving relatives. Some of them even bring their Taiwanese wife with them to meet the first wife they had to leave behind.

The Qingming (Bright and Clear) Festival this year fell on April 5, but there were no spring showers on the islands as is usual at this season. I followed the villagers to the cemetery overlooking the sea on a hill at the rear of Tongbo. Dongshan people live by what they can get from the sea and, when they die, they are buried in tombs facing it.

The rituals traditionally connected with this festival are followed assiduously on Dongshan



Island. The villagers go to the tombs of their ancestors on this day to weed and clean up the tombs. Finally they place stacks of 'hell money' on the tombs weighted down by stones. Inevitably, the wind blows them away, however, so that the hilltop is soon littered with paper strips in the colours of the rainbow. This paper money is said to be a gift to the god of the village in exchange for his blessing of their ancestors in the other world. Having let off some firecrackers, each family places offerings in front of its own tomb, prostrating themselves before it. Some women cry grievously, lying on the tomb as if to wrest back the past by force of tears.

Each and every family on the island reveres Lord Guan (Guan Yu), the famous general of the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280) who was deified after death as the God of War. A portrait of Lord Guan stands in every home, each hand-drawn image different. I was interested to note that the seal of the Guan Yu Temple has to be affixed to each portrait before it can be hung up.

This temple is located near the old fort of Tongshan in the centre of the island. Also known as the Military Temple, it was built in 1389 in the Ming dynasty by an officer from Guan Yu's native place in Shanxi who was stationed here with his troops to repel the Japanese pirates — a common menace along

the coast in those days. People connected with the temple told me that it is the 'mother' of the 170 odd Guan Yu (or Kuankung) temples in Taiwan.

## Yunxiao's Temples

From Dongshan I went north to Yunxiao County. There, in the county town, I found the Kaizhang Shengwangmiao (Temple of the Sage King Who Opened Up Zhangzhou) swarming with devotees burning joss-sticks.

The 'sage king' was one Chen Yuanguang, who lived in the Tang dynasty (618-907) and came to what was then considered a land of barbarians with troops under his father's command. Since both officers and men hailed from a place called Zhanghe in Henan, the local river was named the Zhangjiang in memory of their hometown. In 686, Chen presented a memorial to the emperor of that

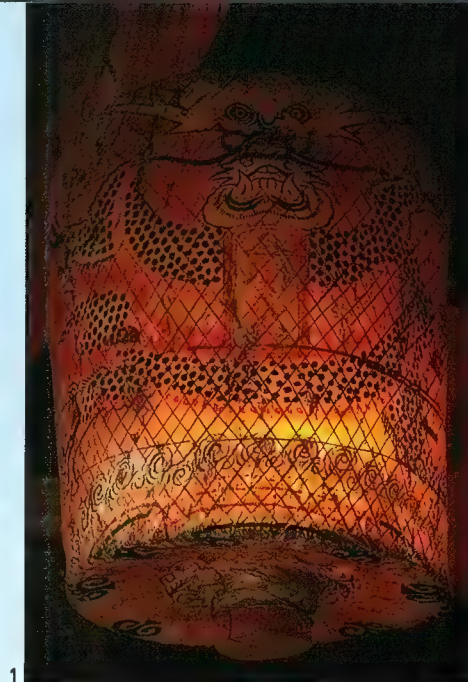
**Cemetery scene near the old fort of Tongshan during the Qingming Festival (1). The Bachimen Causeway now links Dongshan Island to the mainland (3, by Fang Ping). Water is scarce on the island at time of drought — even the wells nearly run dry (2). Exquisite wood and gilt carvings in the Guan Yu Temple (4). This Taiwanese resident has returned with his wife to Tongbo, his birthplace, to see his first wife (5) (4 and 5 by Lin Jian).**





time proposing that Zhangzhou Prefecture be established. His request was granted and he himself was appointed prefect. This was the beginning of the exploration and development of southern Fujian. Later, in recognition of Chen's contributions to their well-being, the people of Fujian gave him this title. This temple has spawned numerous branch temples, found throughout southern Fujian and Taiwan.

The main gates of the temple were wide open when I got there, but the side gates were shut. The right-hand side gates were painted with two eunuchs in the yellow robes of officials while the side gates to the left bore two maids of honour wreathed in smiles, a bit chubby, as was the aesthetic ideal of the Tang dynasty. The strange thing about this was that door gods are normally either military officers or civilian officials, but quite definitely male.



1

These were the first female door gods (or rather goddesses) I had ever come across.

The Tian Di Hui (Heaven and Earth Society) was a most influential secret society during the Qing dynasty. It was founded for the purpose of overthrowing that dynasty and reinstating the Ming. During the period of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (1850-1864), leaders of this society staged uprisings everywhere in the country, although its main sphere of activities was the southeast coast and the areas south of the Yangtse. Such societies were very common during the period. Dr Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), who founded the Xing Zhong Hui (Society for the Revival of China), in 1905 became the head of the Tong Meng Hui (Revolutionary League), which incorporated surviving factions of the Tian Di Hui.

Its members spread far and wide, but the cradle of the Tian Di Hui remains a mystery to this day. Findings made in Yunxiao County in recent years by Chinese and foreign historians have however shown that the society was founded at the Sage King Temple in the village of Gaoxi by the monk Hong Er, or Wan Tixi, in 1674. Gaoxi lies eight kilometres east of Yunxiao. Mr Fang Daojin of Yunxiao took me there to visit the temple, a small, insignificant and dilapidated affair on the north bank of the Zhangjiang.

### Zhangpu County

Haiyueyan (Sea and Moon Rock) in Zhangpu County is only seven kilometres east again of Gaoxi. This is in fact an ancient temple built on a rocky hill by a highway. Its roof is a huge slanting rock which, seen from a distance, seems to weigh down the edifice, but the rock and the building have been 'interdependent' for several hundred years.

The camellia trees in front of the temple, said to be five hundred years old, were in full bloom when I was there. But, to my disappointment, the monks have surrounded them with barbed wire fencing to prevent them being picked by visitors.

2





From the top of the hill one looks down over the estuary of the Zhangjiang and the sea. An ancient pagoda set on a tiny island in the middle of the river served as a navigation mark in the old days. Everyone who sails in or out of the river mouth has to pass this place.

### Longhai – Prominent Descendants

Due to the poor road conditions further east, I had to turn back to Yunxiao and make a detour to reach my next destination. The road through the hilly region of Yunxiao County was lined with loquat trees. The light yellow fruit added colour to the landscape and its sweet smell was most refreshing.

Longhai County lies on the plain. Rows of kapok trees flanked the roadside, their blossoms a fiery red. Our driver stopped at an ancient stone pavilion, the famous Mumian (Kapok) Pavilion, he said. This is the place

the Song and was offered an official post. Declining the offer, Wu returned to his hometown to practise medicine and serve the people. After he died, the temple was built to honour his memory.

I was there on April 8, the anniversary of his birth. Carrying coloured streamers and portraits of Wu Ben, many people were on their way to the temple. Its outer structure was

*Lanterns burn perpetually (1) in the Sage King Temple in Yunxiao which boasts unusual Tang-dynasty door goddesses (2). A pagoda in the Zhangjiang estuary has acted as a beacon for sailors since time immemorial (3). At Ciji Temple near Hongjian, a folk theatre troupe dressed as the Eight Immortals makes offerings to the god (4) while artisans fashion ingenious mosaics from porcelain bowls (5).*



where the treacherous Song-dynasty minister Jia Sidao (1213-1275) was killed. The younger brother of an imperial concubine, while serving as prime minister Jia Sidao signed a secret peace treaty with the Mongol invaders, all the while reporting to the emperor that his forces had been victorious. He remained in power for many years, concealing the true facts of the military situation from the emperor. Finally, his treachery was discovered and he was banished to Fujian where he was killed by his escort. An account of this is given on a stone tablet behind the pavilion.

At Longhai, I also paid a visit to the village of Hongjian, home of the ancestors of President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines. I was informed that a former Singaporean president was also from the county.

Just one kilometre away from Hongjian is Ciji Temple, where Wu Ben the 'Great King Who Protects People's Health' is enshrined. Built in 1150 in the Southern Song, it is the mother of many such temples in Fujian and Taiwan. Wu, a noted physician of the twelfth century, once succeeded in curing a chronic disease of the mother of Emperor Renzong of





under repair. Artisans were breaking up colourful porcelain bowls specially made for this purpose and then using the shards to form mosaics, producing flowers, animals and human figures.

Noisy vendors crowded the space outside the temple; they were selling oysters. At a restaurant serving still more oysters, I saw several lion's heads (not real ones!) hung up on the wall. Used in the lion dance at the Spring Festival celebrations, these cloth heads are apparently put there since the locals believe they should not be left around to 'fall asleep' just anywhere.

Wuyu Island in Longhai County is only some four kilometres away from the islands of Dadan and Erdan which are garrisoned by Taiwan, but it is now open to tourists. I joined a tour out of curiosity.

Soon after we had sailed past Gulangyu Island off Xiamen, our guide pointed at a row of five islands in the sea. These were the Dandan Islands: Dadan, Erdan, Sandan, Sidan and Wudan. I could see fishing boats shuttling between the islands.

Our ship arrived at Wuyu, where the wharf was crowded with fishing boats of all sizes. Our guide took us along to a fishing hamlet consisting of many small and attractive two-storeyed houses. We climbed a hill and looked across at Dadan. Standing at the top of a deserted fortress looking through a telescope installed there, I could make out the slogans painted on walls on the island.

2



At lunchtime our guide played us a videotape showing the scenery of Jinmen (Quemoy) Island — also still claimed and held by Taiwanese troops — recorded from a Taiwanese TV station. Both the ancient fortress on Huli Hill in Xiamen and the village of Hecuo are favoured places for Chinese tourists to gaze across at Jinmen. Nowadays, tourists from Taiwan go there too!

### **Tong'an and Nan'an**

After travelling north from Xiamen by car for ten kilometres, I reached Lianhe Pier in Tong'an County. From the pier I could make out three tiny dark spots: the islands of

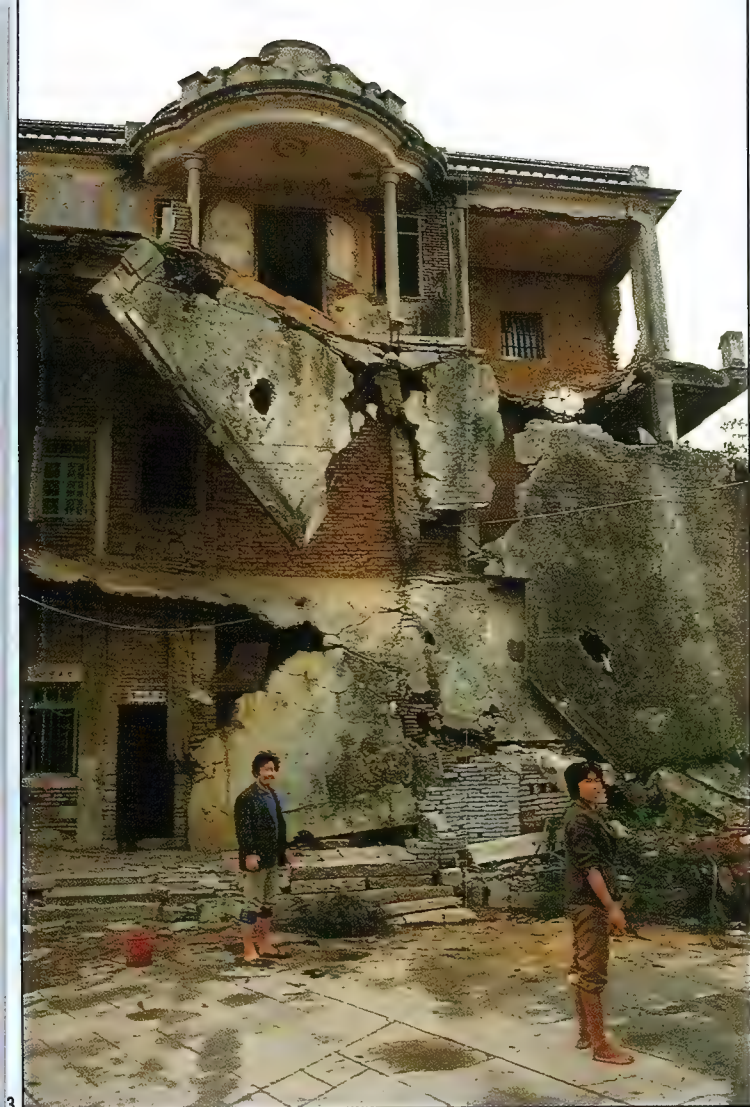
Dadeng, Xiaodeng and Jiaoyu. These three are so small that together they amount to less than ten square kilometres. I took a boat out to them, assuming they would be barren and deserted. What was my astonishment to find that they have a road network, with no shortage of motorbikes roaring around!

I chanced to witness a wedding there. The young bride in a smart red suit was wearing four gold necklaces, a gold ring on practically every finger, gold bracelets, and a gold watch into the bargain — mostly gifts from her husband's older relatives but some, I was told, part of her dowry.

Shijing, a township in Nan'an County west







of Quanzhou, was the ancestral home of Zheng Chenggong (1624-1662), also known as Koxinga, the famous Ming loyalist general who succeeded in chasing the Dutch out of Taiwan in the early Qing dynasty. There, built against a mountain and facing the sea, is the large Zheng Chenggong Memorial Hall. It overlooks the place where Zheng trained his naval forces. You can also see Baisha (White Sand) Beach on the eastern bank of the River Jinjiang. This is the place where in 1655 Zheng fought a bloody battle against Qing troops led by Shi Lang, his one-time friend and a fellow Fujianese. Zheng emerged the victor on that occasion, but was forced to retreat to Taiwan in 1659.

***It is now possible to watch military drills on Wuyu Island on this security-conscious section of coastline (1). The oyster beds of Hecuo on the outskirts of Xiamen are only four kilometres from Taiwan-held Jinmen Island (5, by Lin Jian); a house damaged by artillery fire (3) in Hecuo, where Taiwanese TV stations can be received (4). The charming old church and houses in Longhai County combine elements of Chinese and European architecture (2).***







1



2



3

Near the doorway leading to the hall is a row of trees. In front of each of them stands a wooden board bearing the name of the person who planted it. One of the names is Japanese. The director of the memorial hall told me that this person was descended from Zheng's younger brother. Zheng's mother was Japanese, and his brother later settled in Japan.

The Zheng family cemetery is thirteen kilometres from Shijing. Zheng Chenggong himself is also buried there.

### **Melancholy Tales of Jinjiang**

My next stop was the village of Tangdong in the township of Jinjing in the county of Jinjiang, south of Quanzhou. On a mountain behind this coastal village there is a cave containing stone sculptures dating from the Sui and Tang dynasties (581-907).

Known as Xiziyan, it is fronted by the newly renovated Dafo (Big Buddha) Monastery. As it is located in what was until recently an out-of-the-way place and thus escaped damage, all the carvings are in good condition. I scrutinized the statues in the cave. Their fleshy faces have a dignified expression and the folds





4

of their garments are delicately executed. The local people are very proud of these carvings and take good care of them, although they have yet to be examined by experts. There is a stone tablet in the monastery listing the names of those who have made contributions to the latest renovation of the monastery, many of them from Taiwan.

The seaboard region of southern Fujian was one of the main emigration areas in past centuries. Many men left their home to seek a living in Southeast Asia, leaving their wife and children behind. When they died overseas, the Chinese people living abroad who brought back the sad news joined the deceased's wife and relatives in mourning. This still happens

today. I personally watched such a rite at Yukou in Jinjiang County.

Those who took part in the ceremony, men and women alike, were clothed in white mourning garb. Bamboo poles were stuck in rows in the sand, each hung with an article of

***Drying seaweed (1) on Dadeng Island, where a bride wears gold jewellery galore (3). Loudspeakers on both sides blare songs across the two kilometres of sea separating the islands of Jiaoyu and Jinmen (2) (1, 2 and 3 by Lin Jian). A mural at the Zheng Chenggong Memorial Hall in Shijing portrays his recovery of Taiwan from the Dutch (4); the Zheng family tomb (5).***



5



clothing and paper streamers of red, yellow and white. A band played the traditional funeral music of southern Fujian. Two Taoist priests wearing yellow robes waved their swords as they recited incantations. This done, the people launched boats made of paper on the sea. The women then grabbed the bamboo poles and swarmed to the water's edge trying to pull back the boats with the poles, wailing and crying out the names of the deceased as they did so. Intended to call back the soul of the departed, this was a most moving scene.

'Shenhu is the home of beauties.' That's what they say in Jinjiang. Some say the local women are good-looking because of Shenhu Bay's good climate, wonderful scenery and top-quality water. Others attribute it to the affluence of this small town, which means that the womenfolk do not need to go to sea fishing nor expose themselves to the harsh elements.

I walked through the labyrinth of back lanes lined with stone houses and old-fashioned shops. The houses were all built against the hillside in ascending tiers, and most of them looked out on the extraordinarily blue, calm bay.

In the sunset glow I could see the Gusao (Sisters-in-Law) Pagoda on a mountain on the other side of the bay. It is said that, once upon a time, a young man went overseas to seek a living. His wife and young sister stood on the mountain day after day, awaiting his early return. To enable them to see further, every day they added an extra stone to the pile under their feet. As the stones rose higher and higher, they ended up building a pagoda. However, when their beloved husband and brother failed to return, in despair they jumped off the top of the pagoda to their death. On one side of the pagoda is the mouth of the River Hanjiang. Everybody going in and out of Quanzhou's harbour passes this tragic spot. I wonder if they think of the story as they do so?

### Putian and Pingtan

It was drizzling as I alighted from the bus at the terminal at Putian. I hired a pedicab to reach the town centre.

Putian has an antiquated street paved with stone slabs and lined with dark-red wooden buildings, some housing shops with a strong flavour of the 'good old days'. At the end of this street rises a watch-tower built over a gateway very like the Tian'anmen Gate in Beijing. Called the Ancient Watch-Tower, it dates from 983 in the Song dynasty. Since a drum to announce the time and a water clock

***Buddhas from the Sui and Tang dynasties in the Xiziyan Cave at Tangdong (1). Drying fish and squid (2). The paixiong or 'beating the chest' dance – peculiar to Jinjiang County – performed by children in the village of Yongning (3, by Chen Shizhe). Mourning the death of relatives who had settled overseas (4) (2 and 4 by Lin Jian).***











1



to assess it were installed inside, it is also known as the Drum Tower. In the past, there was an edifice of this kind built in the main city of every prefecture throughout China, but few are as well-preserved as this one.

Many people went overseas from here in the mid-nineteenth century. Their descendants have returned to Putian County to build splendid new mansions incorporating the traditional local style.

Pingtian, also known as Haitan Island, is a county in itself. It is sometimes known as the 'county with a thousand reefs'. The Shipaiyang Reef on the shore in Su'ao, a town in the western part of the island, is the most spectacular.

As we approached Su'ao, we saw two huge rocks at a distance, the higher one about thirty metres tall, the lower one over ten. They are said to be China's largest granite monoliths produced by maritime erosion.

### The Minjiang Estuary

I continued to Fuzhou, capital of Fujian, my journey along the coast nearing its end. My



3





next and final destination was the estuary of the River Minjiang. It is around twenty kilometres from the city centre of Fuzhou to the port of Mawei. From Mawei I took a boat further downstream to where the Minjiang empties into the sea. This is Minjiangkou, the 'mouth of the Minjiang'.

This part of the river is scattered with islands like pieces on a chessboard and has thus always been easy to defend. In fact, it was almost impregnable, which is why, when the Qing court began to build up a modern navy, it chose this as its base. China's first navy school was founded and its first modern warship built here, as was its first seaplane. At the riverside you can see a display of cannons used in the old days to ward off attacks by Japanese pirates.

One of the most scenic spots at Minjiangkou is the famous Wuhu (Five Tiger) Reef. Five jagged peaks rise from a common reef base in a row, like five fierce tigers poised between the river and the sea. Any ship heading out to sea must first turn to bypass the Wuhu Reef and Langqi Island. This reef was the most strategic barrier at the mouth of the Minjiang.

Zheng He (1371-1435), the Ming-dynasty admiral who undertook seven great voyages, taking his fleets to Indochina, the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the eastern coast of Africa, would have been well-acquainted with



this landmark, since Fuzhou was his final port of call in China each time. His sixty-two junks carrying 28,000 men, many of them from Fujian, must have been an awesome sight as they rounded the Wuhu Reef and disappeared out into the Taiwan Straits....

Translated by Ren Jiazhen

*A dragon boat in Putian County, its entire hull painted as a dragon (1, by Lin Xiayu), and the Song-dynasty watch-tower of Putian (2). Flowers bloom on the shore (3). Great monoliths rise from the sea near Su'ao on Pingtan Island (4, by Liang Xiyi), and the Wuhu (Five Tiger) Reef guards the mouth of the Minjiang (5) (3 and 5 by Lin Jian).*





# A Taiwan Trio

PHOTOS BY TAI CHI YIN  
ARTICLES BY XUAN WU

**T**he two sides of the Taiwan Straits, less than 150 kilometres apart at the narrowest point, are very different in character. On the one, the Fujian coast, you will find hundreds of bays and inlets, big and small, and a profusion of islands. But the western coast of Taiwan, across the Straits, runs almost straight northeast and southwest with little indentation and few islands. I visited the Penghu Islands, since they lie in the middle of the Straits, but also investigated two major cities in southwestern Taiwan. Each of these three destinations has its own charms, its own points of interest: the modern port city of Kaohsiung, the ancient cultural centre of Tainan, the windswept but tranquil Penghus.





# Kaohsiung Jumps to a Modern Beat

Once we had taken off from Kai Tak Airport in Hong Kong, no sooner had the 'safety belt' sign gone out and the air hostesses begun to distribute soft drinks and peanuts than it was announced that we were about to land at Kaohsiung International Airport! The flight to Taiwan took only slightly more than forty minutes, less time than it takes me to travel to work every day.

As we swooped down, I caught sight of Chichin Island passing below. A long, narrow strip of land, it acts as a natural breakwater to shelter the port of Kaohsiung from the storms and winds of the Taiwan Straits.

Located in the south and west of Taiwan, Kaohsiung is the industrial and commercial centre of the island. It occupies an area of 156.6 square kilometres — it is 22.2 kilometres long and 10.4 kilometres wide — and has a population of some 1.2 million. Developed as a trading port during the late Qing dynasty (1644-1911), the city has undergone many changes as a result of rapid urban growth and developments. Its modern image is one of wide and well-ordered streets.

## Concrete Forest

As the taxi transporting me to my lodgings in the Yancheng District took me slowly through the city centre, building after building loomed on either side. Many of them were painted pink, others a purplish shade. Some of the buildings had something of a fairy-tale air: their roofs were finished in a dazzling silver-grey.

The reason we were moving so slowly was, of course, because I had the misfortune to arrive during Kaohsiung's rush hour. As we inched our way along Chungshan Road and Wufu Road, motorcyclists swarmed like

*Highrises are gradually crowding out the older quarters (1); the port and city from the Martyrs' Shrine on Shoushan Hill (3). At every intersection, there's so much jostling and revving of engines you'd think it was the start of the Grand Prix (2), but on Chichin Island Taiwan's last few surviving cycle-rickshaws ply their more leisurely trade (4).*





bees, intensifying the traffic chaos to the point where a policeman had to divert the flow to sort it out.

Motorcycles, mopeds and scooters are extremely popular in Taiwan, especially in the big cities where every second person is reckoned to own one. You see men and women, old and young, students, shop assistants, housewives and office workers dashing around on them night and day — but no-one seems to wear a safety helmet!

I first visited Shoushan (Longevity Hill) Park for a panoramic view over the city in order to get my bearings. From the hill I also had a fine view over the port. Apparently, this came into being before the city. It is all of fairly recent date, however. The port was built in 1905 because of its location and its ideal conditions as a deep-water anchorage for large ships. It is Taiwan's biggest port, the second being Keelung east of Taipei in the northern part of the island. In fact, Kaohsiung is one of the world's largest container ports.

### The More Modern, the Better!

The big roads in the city centre — again, Wufu Road and Chungshan Road in particular — are lined with shops and commercial buildings, including department stores which are the largest in the whole of Taiwan, surpassing even Taipei's. Kaohsiung has no shortage of restaurants, music TV lounges, *karaoke* bars.... *Karaoke*, where customers sing songs of their choice into a microphone, normally to a video backdrop, is the rage all over Asia now, but it started in Japan.

Many of the restaurants are traditional in style, but here as always the Kaohsiung taste for modernity comes through as well. Old-fashioned beef noodle eating houses, snackbars and congee shops have metamorphosed into modern self-service catering establishments, spacious and lit with soft lights. But they still offer the traditional dishes.

My eye was caught by the photo studios. All of them announce themselves by window displays of the most astonishing confections of wedding dresses — all carefully spotlit. The prosperous Taiwanese spend a lot on weddings nowadays and young brides place great value on a gown which will make their friends turn green with envy when they see the photos. These glamorous garments are not, of course, intended for the walk down the aisle; they are more like ballgowns.

### Treasuring the Past

Despite the overall modern impression the city gives the visitor, there are places near the waterfront in the Yancheng District, on Chungshan Road and Chungcheng Road, where you sense the breath of the past. The atmosphere is quite different from that in the city centre.

The buildings in these older areas are mostly only three or four storeys high. At street level, you find shops in a fine muddle, with high-tech beauty salons and old-fashioned grocery stores cheek by jowl.

With the coming of more general prosperity to Taiwan and Kaohsiung, apart from fast cars and designer fashions, it is also becoming more and more the done thing to collect antiques, even among the young people. The art market is booming, and auctions of old Chinese paintings and porcelain are achieving record prices.

I was lucky enough to be invited to visit an interior designer one evening. He lived on the top floor of a new house, and his flat was most attractively decorated in a



1



2





3

mixture of traditional and modern. Among the objects which caught my eye were a watercolour painting by Hsi Teh Tsin, a famous Taiwanese artist, still living, and hundreds of wooden, brick and stone folk carvings from Taiwan and Fujian. The designer had erected a wooden shed on the roof to provide him with a secluded den for creative work. A dozen small ceramic tiles hung on the walls of the shed; these, he told me, were in the ancient Fujianese style and were a family heirloom.

The following day I took his advice and went over to a small lane near the Chungcheng Cultural Centre on the eastern side of the city which holds a cluster of antique and curio shops. One of the proprietors told me that the objects he was offering for sale were genuine antiques collected from country-dwellers in Taiwan as well as from Fujian and Guangdong. Those from Fujian sold especially well because of the close local links; a good half of the people living in Kaohsiung are descended from Fujianese immigrants.

Another shop-owner was a woman who had been born in Quanzhou in Fujian. Although she had been brought up in Kaohsiung, she told me, she retained a strong feeling for her native place on the mainland. She had started out as an amateur collector of old items from Fujian and had eventually amassed so many she had been able to open her own antique shop.

Translated by Gu Weizhou



4

***Astonishingly, this is meant for a bride (1)! The interior designer shows off his collection of traditional folk ceramics (2); an antique shop with a typically vast range of items, mainly from Fujian (3). The twin pagodas of the Spring and Autumn Temple in Kaohsiung's suburbs (4).***



## *Rendezvous on the Penghus*





It takes only twenty-five minutes to fly from Kaohsiung in Taiwan to the island of Penghu in the archipelago of the same name. From the plane cabin I spotted the occasional boat with its white wake trailing across the dark-blue waters of the Taiwan Straits. After the plane had passed through a particularly thick bank of clouds, island after island came into sight below. We flew low over the sea to land on an airstrip built on a hillside.

### Straits Stop-Over

Once I was out of the simple airport building, I caught a bus west to the county town of Penghu, which still uses its old name Makung. A light drizzle soon began.

The bus climbed hill after hill. There seemed to be no larger buildings nor even any particularly attractive ones. The small villages we were passing each had its name written on a board at the bus stop: Hungluo, Kangti, Tungwei, Hsiwen....

After almost an hour's ride we reached Makung, which has the sea on three sides so that, from any spot within the city, you can walk to the shore within ten minutes. There are not many cars and even here, in the 'capital' of the Penghu Islands, the buildings are no more than two storeys high. Makung was once a walled town with six gateways. One survives – the Shuncheng Gate, over a hundred years old. The town takes its name from the Makung or Heavenly Empress Temple, the oldest on the islands. There are around 150 temples on Penghu Island, and sixty in Makung alone.

The Penghu Islands straddle the Tropic of Cancer and lie more or less on the same latitude as Shantou in eastern Guangdong. They are roughly half-way down the western coast of Taiwan – and 120 nautical miles from Xiamen in Fujian.

This archipelago was historically a sort of transit station for people from the mainland sailing to Taiwan – the earliest settlers came from Fujian in the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279). However, owing to the harsh climate and exposed, rather dry land, most people moved on to Taiwan proper after a short while, drawn by its fertility.

***The sheltered harbour at Wai'an (1). Chopped cuttlefish and whole prawns are used as bait (2).***





Despite its present population of around 60,000, Makung remains a simple town to this day and can in no way be compared to Kaohsiung ... but then, Kaohsiung is a modern industrial city and the largest port in Taiwan!

### Seeing the Sights

There is little public transport on the Penghus, and I was advised to hire a motorbike to see the main sights. It cost me just NT\$200 (HK\$70) per day. The archipelago is made up of around a hundred islands and islets with an area totalling 127 square kilometres. Penghu Island itself has an area of sixty-four square kilometres. Bridges now link the three largest islands – Penghu, Paisha (White Sand) and Hsiyu (West Island) – in a gigantic back-to-front 'C'. Makung is located on Penghu in the southern part of the group, facing Hsiyu Island.

I only had to ride for two or three minutes before I saw the sea and soon Makung was behind me. Now all I had around me was farmland and the sea. Riding south along the so-called No. 4 Highway, I scanned the deep grey waters. Villages whisked past me from time to time. In some places I had the sea on both sides of me as I crossed a causeway.

Half an hour later I reached the end of the road. A signpost announced 'Fengkuei' ... 'bellows'. What could this mean? I left my bike and walked towards the shore. There I found myself standing on a honeycomb of black rocks, each around thirty centimetres across, in a sort of hexagonal formation. I met some fishermen who told me that the island actually consists of basalt. This columnar jointing formation, producing 'prisms' of basalt, is fairly common across the world. In and around Fengkuei, erosion by the ocean has formed caves in the rock. When waves crash against them, the pressure of the water inside the caves makes it spurt out through crevices in the rock, making a sound like a pair of bellows. Hence the name.

It was a lovely place to sit and wait for the sunset, to the wheezing accompaniment of the subterranean bellows.

### Villagers of Fujianese Descent

The following day I rode north and west in a great loop along the No. 3 Highway to Hsiyu Island at the westernmost point of the 'C'. It was only linked to Penghu in 1970 with the completion of the over five-kilometre-long bridge between the islands of Paisha and Hsiyu.

It took me an hour to reach the village of Wai'an – a journey marked solely by rocks, the sea and the occasional fishing village.

The harbour at Wai'an was full of gorgeously painted fishing boats. Most of them had a light purple hull, with the deck and other parts picked out in magnificent blues, reds and greens. These bright colours are believed to bring the fishermen good luck in their encounters with the frequent storms and choppy seas of the Taiwan Straits.

I walked around the village, watching as the fishermen prepared provisions and tools, repaired their nets and boats, or loaded bait. The latter involved coiling the lines and attaching the many baited hooks neatly around the edges of the boxes in which they would later stow their catch. This is







how they spend their time between spells at sea. The majority of the villagers are descended from Fujianese stock. Now, however, their families having been settled in Wai'an for several centuries, they regard themselves as sons and daughters of the archipelago – true Penghu Islanders.

The hills at the sides and behind the village command good views of the fishing fleet as it leaves and enters the harbour. This high ground is traditionally used as a grave site. Tombs dot the hills, all facing the sea. The villagers say this is deliberate so that, even in death, the deceased can 'see' the sea on which they had once depended for a living. However, the lay of the land, with hills at the back as protection and an open prospect, is of course also excellent *fengshui* (literally, 'wind and water') – in other words, an ideal position for one's final resting place from the point of view of geomancy. And a family's fortunes are bound up with the siting of its graves.

### The Giant Banyan

Hsiyu has some lovely coves and attractive scenery. At its southern tip lies Hsital Fort, dating

*The basalt sea cliffs of Penghu are split in places like the pipes of an organ (1), while the local wenshi stone is cut, polished and made into souvenir items (5). The Shuncheng Gate at Makung (2). Young islanders gather on the shore at sunset (3) and tombs typically face the sea (4).*





from 1883. While on Hsiyu, I was flagged down by a young man seeking a lift. He happily became my guide for a few days. He was from Taichung on Taiwan but had worked on the archipelago for a year. Since he was familiar with the place, he now drove and I rode pillion.

It seemed to be very windy. My new friend told me that the wind is always strong on the archipelago since it lies exposed and isolated in an area affected by both the 'wet' and 'dry' monsoons. July and August are the only months when there is some respite from the gales. Since they carry water vapour from the sea, storms are referred to here as 'salt rain'. The salt penetrates the soil, so that very little grows on the islands.

Thinking back, I realized that, in truth, I had not seen any good-sized trees since my arrival. But everywhere you see windbreaks or low walls made of oyster shells and coral, erected to give the crops in the fields – peanuts, sweet potatoes, sorghum – some protection from the elements.

Strong as they are, Penghu's winds are not omnipotent. Tungliang, a village at the northwestern tip of Paisha Island, is reputed for its abundant greenery, according to my guide, who drove me there to show me.

When we arrived, I found that the 'greenery' was a grove which had evolved from a single banyan tree and its roots and suckers. The original tree is over three hundred years old. Elderly people sat resting in





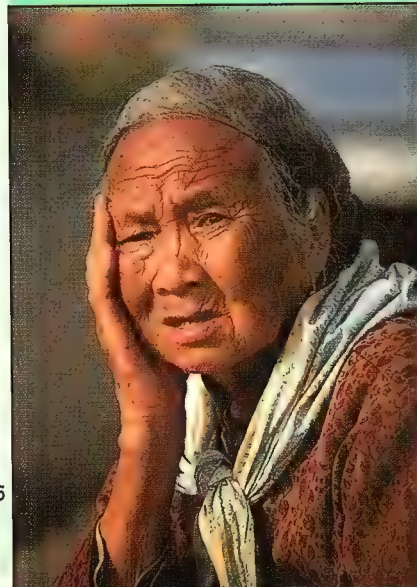
its cool shade, as its branches are supported by latticework. We climbed to the top floor of the nearby police station from where we could see the banyan grove stretching out over an area the size of a football field – one of the biggest of its kind I have ever seen.

We continued past a rocky bay where women were collecting molluscs. They each had scarves wound around their head and face, leaving only their eyes visible – the purpose of this being of course to protect their complexion from the wind and flying grit. This is a common sight on the islands; I passed many people, mainly women, on the highway with this mask-like protection.

That afternoon we returned to Makung to watch the sun set over the sea near the Kuanyin Pavilion. My guide confided that, much as he liked the Penghus, he preferred Taiwan. The islands were just too small and quiet for his taste. It's true that the lifestyle here is very restricted as regards entertainment possibilities for young people.... There is nothing like the *karaoke* and music TV lounges of Taiwan's big cities in Makung, let alone in the smaller settlements. The economic prospects are also limited, basically to fishing and farming. The islanders' lifestyle is more rugged, more traditional and definitely simpler in a way which evokes the way of life of the inhabitants of the Shetland Islands or Hebrides. They still go to bed early here, and the pace of life is immeasurably slower than in Taiwan.

Translated by He Fei

***A modern coffee house on Penghu Island (1). The giant banyan of Tungliang (2) provides a contrast to the treeless, windswept lands necessitating windbreaks and walls (3). A beachcomber (4) swathes her face in scarves against the drying winds which inevitably take effect with age (5).***





# Tainan, Past and Present



My next destination was the ancient city of Tainan, north of Kaohsiung. There were a good number of Tainanese among the passengers on the *S.S. Happy Princess* which I took as an alternative to flying. Talking to them, I could hardly miss the sense of pride in their voices when they told me of the glorious past when Tainan was the capital and Taipei, Kaohsiung and Taichung — now all larger than Tainan — had not even come into existence.

Tainan was formerly known as Chihkan and was the site of many key events in Taiwan's history. The southwest of the island was the first place to be settled by each successive wave of immigrants to these shores, and the site of present-day Tainan seemed to offer ideal conditions for the Dutch too when they invaded Taiwan in 1624. They made it their capital and military headquarters. But not for long! The Dutch were forced out again in 1661 and, in 1663, Tainan became the capital of Taiwan and remained so until 1885. It became a prosperous port, controlling the island's economy. But gradually attention switched towards the north of the island, Taipei was developed, and Tainan declined in relative importance.

It was dusk as we landed at Putai Harbour. I took a bus south to Tainan; it was eight o'clock at night by the time I





entered the city. Though it is not as large as Kaohsiung, there were neon lights everywhere and the same crowds of pedestrians and traffic jostling at road junctions. Taiwan's fourth largest city, Tainan has a population of over 650,000.

### The Chihkan Tower

That night I stayed in a hostel in the city's eastern district. The following morning dawned, drizzly and gloomy. As I took a bus to my first destination, I noted that the streets were comparatively narrow, the three and four-storeyed buildings which line them rather old-fashioned. Modernization has not yet completely changed the ambience of this southern Taiwanese city.

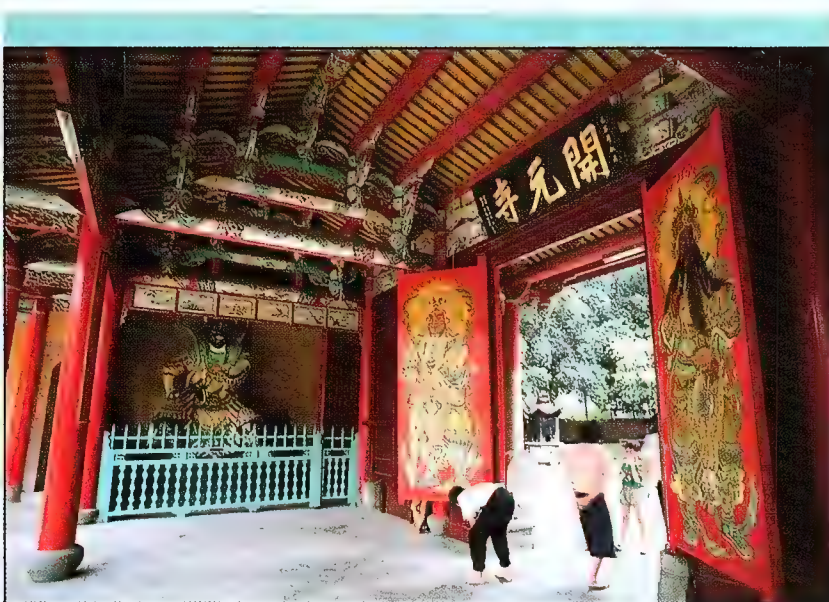
I walked west along Mintsu Road to the Chihkan Tower. This was one of two forts constructed by the Dutch on Taiwan following their capture of the Penghu Islands. Chihkan Tower stands on the site of Fort Providentia, which was built in 1653. The first fort, built in 1623, was Fort Zeelandia, now Fort Anping in the western suburbs. But only thirty-seven years later, in 1661, the Ming-dynasty loyalist Cheng Cheng-kung (spelt Zheng Chenggong in Pinyin and known to the west as Koxinga) brought 30,000 troops over from the mainland when he was forced to retreat and besieged the Dutch. He captured Fort Zeelandia (after a nine-month siege) and Fort Providentia and successfully ousted the Dutch from Taiwan. He died at the age of 38 only one year after his victory, but his followers managed to maintain Taiwan as a Ming stronghold until 1682, when it was finally seized by Qing-dynasty troops.

Most of the present Chihkan Tower dates from 1873. The three-storeyed building is fronted by a row of nine giant stone turtles, each bearing a stele on its back. The inscriptions on the stone tablets are said to have been written by Emperor Qianlong of the Qing (reign dates 1736-1795) to extol the exploits of the local governors and officers in quelling a rebellion. The tower is surrounded by coconut palms, adding to the tropical atmosphere. De-

**The huge tablets in front of the Chihkan Tower (1), and the Kaiyuan Temple (4), modelled on the original in Fujian's Quanzhou. The Dutch fort at Anping (2), reconstructed in the 1970s, and an oil painting depicting the battle between the Dutch and Cheng Cheng-kung's naval forces (3). Shen Baozhen, a Qing-dynasty governor of Taiwan (5) (3 and 5 by Chapman Lee).**



3



4

沈文肅公眞像



5



spite the fact that it is now in the middle of a bustling city, this is a serene and tranquil place.

It was already noon when I looked at my watch ... and it was still drizzling. I went off to look for a restaurant. There were not many people around, maybe because of the rain. It was turning out to be a really bleak and cheerless day, and my spirits were only briefly lifted when I heard someone playing a southern Fujian tune on an *erhu* (a popular stringed instrument). Finding an old-style noodle shop, I hastened to order a warming bowl of noodles. Noodles are very popular in Taiwan (as, of course, they are in Fujian and in eastern Guangdong on the mainland). Yet, apparently, in the past noodles made of coarse grain were considered only as something to replace rice when times were particularly hard.

### Temples Galore

Besides the Chihkan Tower, there are several other well-known historical sites in Tainan. They include Taiwan's earliest Buddhist Temple, the Kaiyuan Temple, Taiwan's earliest Matsu Temple, and Taiwan's earliest Confucius and Kuankung temples. The reason they are all congregated here is of course that the city was the island's capital for 222 years.

Fortified by the noodles, I plunged into the labyrinth of streets and alleys, seeking the Matsu (Mazu) and Kuankung (Guan Yu, the God of War) temples with the aid of my map. It proved to be quite a task but eventually I located them, tucked in among houses. These are modest buildings, dignified, but not too high or grand, more like family shrines where people can drop in to pray to their ancestors at any time.

This again is due to historical reasons. Since Tainan was one of the first places to be settled, the temples built here were mostly modelled on those on the Chinese mainland (and, the Fujianese being some of the early Chinese settlers in Taiwan, Fujianese models predominate). For example, the Kaiyuan Temple here is an exact replica of the ancient Kaiyuan Temple in Fujian's Quanzhou but smaller, since it was considered a 'branch' temple. As the city grew, it developed around and beyond the temples, which are now submerged in the ocean of dwellings. This is why most of Tainan's two hundred odd temples are tucked away in alleys.

I climbed to the top of a high-rise building close to the Matsu Temple for a bird's-eye view of the city. Here and there I could make out the protruding tiled roofs and upturned decorated eaves of temples. The roof decorations — dragons and phoenixes — shone gold in the sunshine which had at last appeared.

### A Sense of Nostalgia

My next destination was the former Wutiao (Five-Channel) Harbour on Shennung Street. The taxi driver who took me there was a native of Tainan. Learning my purpose, he insisted on giving me a free ride and he even accompanied me around the old harbour site.

At the time of the Qianlong reign, this area was covered by five rivers stretching out like the fingers of a hand. Wharves were built along the river banks, making this Tainan's earliest commercial district and the major port of Taiwan. Almost all the ships bearing cargo from the mainland, particularly from the very prosperous Quanzhou, docked here. The area was honeycombed with warehouses and shops. But, as time went by, the channels silted up and, unfortunately, the cargo ships got bigger and bigger. The harbour gradually fell into decline.



1



2





It has now completely disappeared, and the whole area is built over. However, as I wandered through the winding alleyways, I could still find some traces of the past. For instance, the Tuiyueh Gate was part of a bridge in the old days. Hsiluo Hall, Liuhsingfu Temple and Chingfu Temple were all ancestral temples for coolies and dock-workers. The ancient wooden doors once led into large shops....

The elderly people residing in this district are happy to let you into their family history. Most of them claim to be descended from the forces of General Cheng Cheng-kung. The way they tell it, the soldiers who came from the mainland with the Ming general left the army after Taiwan was occupied by Qing forces and settled down as traders and merchants.

In Tainan, in spite of the quickening pace of modernization, there is an undercurrent of nostalgia for the past. This is most evident in the teahouses. They are decked out in a generally archaic style, and with a definite rustic slant. The tables are made from tree stumps or hardwood; the windows and floors are made of woven bamboo, like *tatami*. Tea is boiled using charcoal as fuel, and the attendants are often dressed in Tang or Song-dynasty garb. Such teahouses usually have a small library. It is a most civilized way to spend a few hours, dipping into an ancient book while sipping tea. Of course, there is also a considerable influence from the Japanese tea ceremony as a result of the Japanese occupation of Taiwan for fifty years from 1895.

The Tainanese seem to be partial to the ancient, a trait which comes out in the way they decorate even modern shops and restaurants. Can you imagine a *karaoke* bar decked out with an antique touch? One has to admit it.... The past still lives on in Tainan, sometimes incongruously.



Translated by Anne Yan

**The arch in front of the Confucius Temple is one of the oldest in Tainan (1); stone carvings at the Koxinga Shrine (4). An elaborate tomb near Fort Anping (2) (2 and 4 by Chapman Lee). Teahouses like this are popular gathering places (3).**







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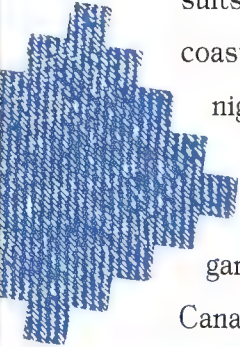


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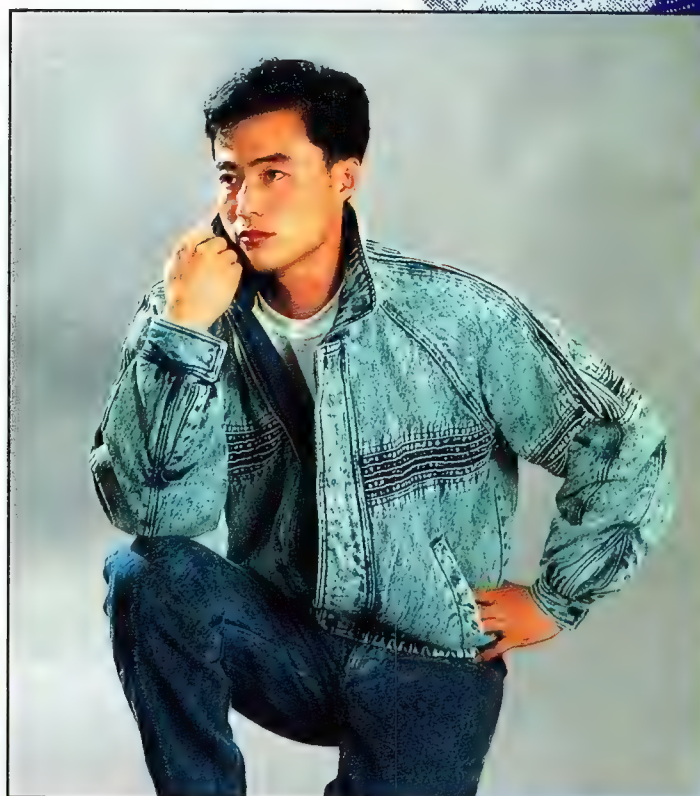
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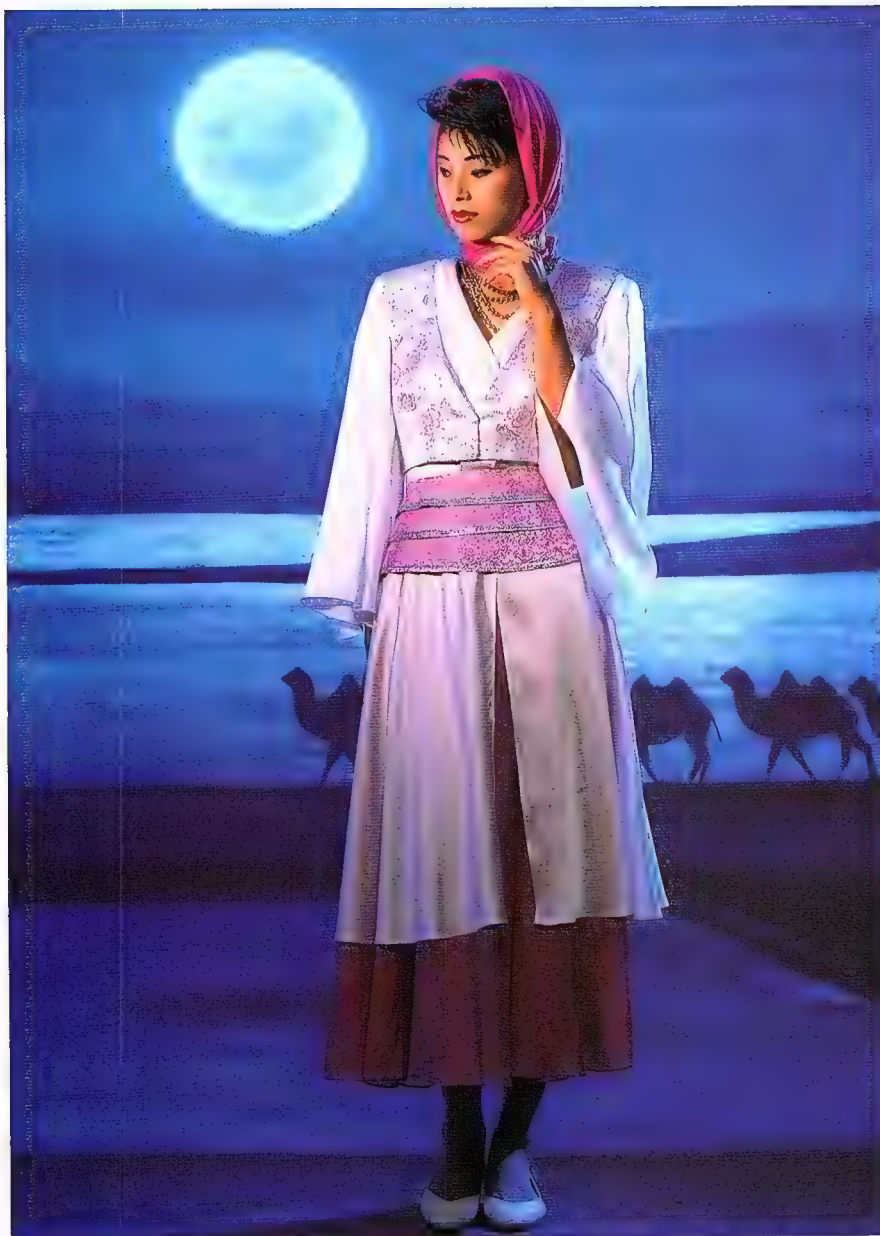
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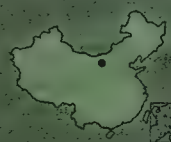
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# To the Great Bend in Inner Mongolia

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY LAM KIN FAI



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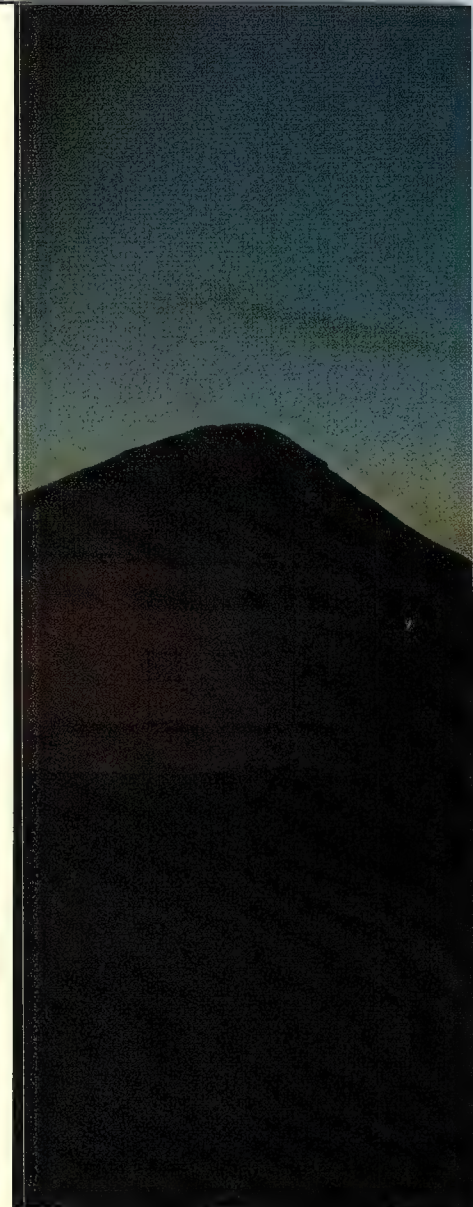








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In the past, mention of Mongolia to me would have conjured up thoughts of Genghis Khan and his great empire, awe-inspiring horsemen and endless grasslands. However, before my visit to Inner Mongolia, I had not realized that Mongolian crafts and customs hundreds of years old had been preserved so well in this vast land.

### Hohhot Old and New

The capital of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Hohhot is located on the grasslands some four hundred kilometres northwest of Beijing. Hohhot, which means 'green city', has a population of around half a million. The old city is very different from the new section, but I was greatly impressed by its rows of wooden houses which made me feel as though I had entered some film set. Even in the new city, the popular Mongolian 'half-onion' design can be seen everywhere.

There are a few interesting buildings to visit: the Great Mosque, for example, the centre of the Moslem community, dating from the Qing dynasty. But for a more Mongolian atmosphere, I went to the Dazhao Temple in

the centre of the old quarter, which has been restored along with the facades of the shops, houses and restaurants in the streets in the vicinity. This was a monastery under the Qing and it displays Sino-Tibetan architecture, with a double roof. Further south, the Wuta (Five Pagodas) Temple is unique as it is in a classical Indian style.

The best introduction to Inner Mongolia, however, must be the museum, where you can see all the trappings of the traditional nomad's life. Another interesting thing I noted were the pictures of the steppes hanging on many restaurant walls, as well as in exhibition halls, evidence of the nostalgia felt even by urban Mongolians for their grassland origins, however far off now.

### Grassland at Huitengxile

The day after my tour group's arrival in Hohhot, we went to Huitengxile 120 kilometres west of the capital to start our tour of places of historical interest. As our coach reached a more hilly area, we had wonderful views over the grasslands. At last I have set foot on the Mongolian steppes, I told myself.



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In Mongolian, *huitengxile* means 'cold plateau'. Though it was the height of summer, the breezes which caressed my face were indeed cool. I gazed out over the land undulating to the horizon at 1,890 metres above sea-level. Local people told me that, during the rainy season, the grassland here is dotted with almost a hundred small lakes (the exact figure given is ninety-nine!). The green expanse was sprinkled with red, white, blue and purple flowers. In the distance, Mongolian boys raced along on horseback; others were practising archery, making me think of the legendary exploits of their ancestors.





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**Previous page:**

*The Huitengxile Grassland is said to have ninety-nine lakes in the rainy season (1, by Shi Yuping). Traditional Mongolian life is celebrated in modern relief carvings (3) as well as in song and dance spectacles (5) (both by Chan Yat Nin) and sports such as archery (4). The stands at Hohhot's modern racecourse (2), China's largest.*

*Nadam Fair is a time for young wrestlers to display their prowess (3) and for performances of banner-waving (1) (both by Su Zhiqiang). The evocative grassland (4, by Alfred Ko) is something to experience at night (2, by Chan Yat Nin). Electricity is wind-generated (5).*

The Mongols were excellent horsemen. Practically as soon as a boy was weaned, he was taken up on a horse's withers in front of his father. Accustomed from the earliest age

to a horse's movements, he eventually became almost one with his horse and was able to stay in the saddle for several days at a time, sleeping as his mount grazed. This is





one of the reasons why these redoubtable warriors were able to move so fast, capable of withstanding the hardest conditions.

### Night in a Yurt

As dusk fell, lights glowed yellow from the yurts where we were to sleep. It was such a novel experience that we all crawled around ecstatically on the double thickness of carpet to feel the softness. Unfortunately it was a 'tourist' yurt built on a brick platform, not the real thing as used by nomads. Still, it was exotic and it was wonderful to watch the myriads of stars through the skylight.

Next day we called on a family living far out on the grasslands. When we filed into their yurt, we were puzzled to see electrical appliances such as television and radio sets and lamps. Why, we had not seen a single electric pole or cable in these steppes! Where did the electricity come from? Noticing our inquiring looks, the yurt-owner smiled and pointed to a windmill on a five-metre-high metal post which generated electricity. I was told that nowadays almost all nomad house-

holds got electricity this way. No wonder the grassland was dotted with lights in the evening.

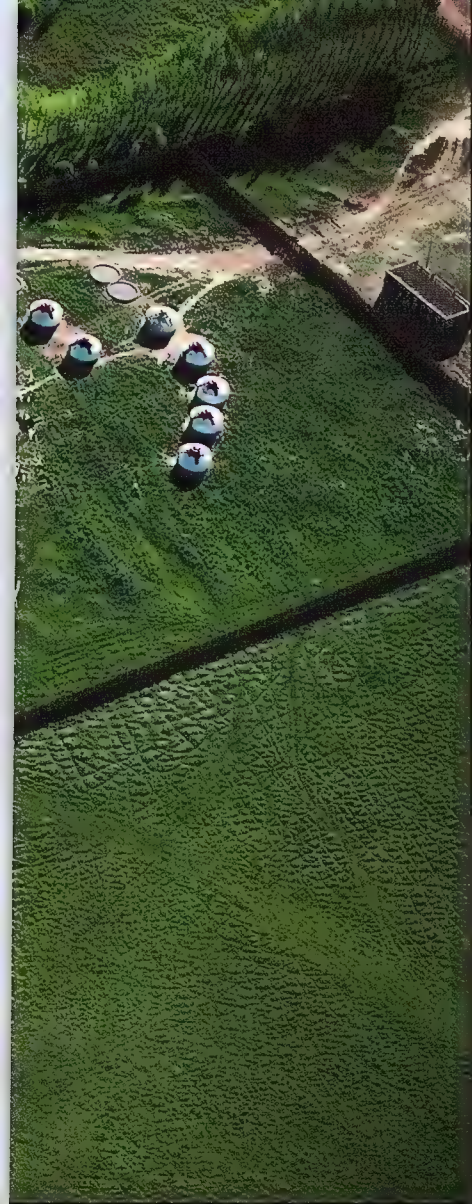
The traditional Mongolian yurt is a cylindrical affair of felt mats on a lattice-like wooden framework which is easy to dismantle. At the top there is a vent to allow smoke and steam to escape. Family life takes place around the fireplace, where cooking is done on an iron tripod. The left side of the fire is reserved for the men and guests, the right for the womenfolk. Food stores — quarters of beef and mutton, containers of butter and so on — are hung from animal horns attached to the yurt framework, and all the family's possessions are stored inside in wooden chests. Such traditional yurt households can still be found in the remoter areas.

### Siziwang's Nadam Fair

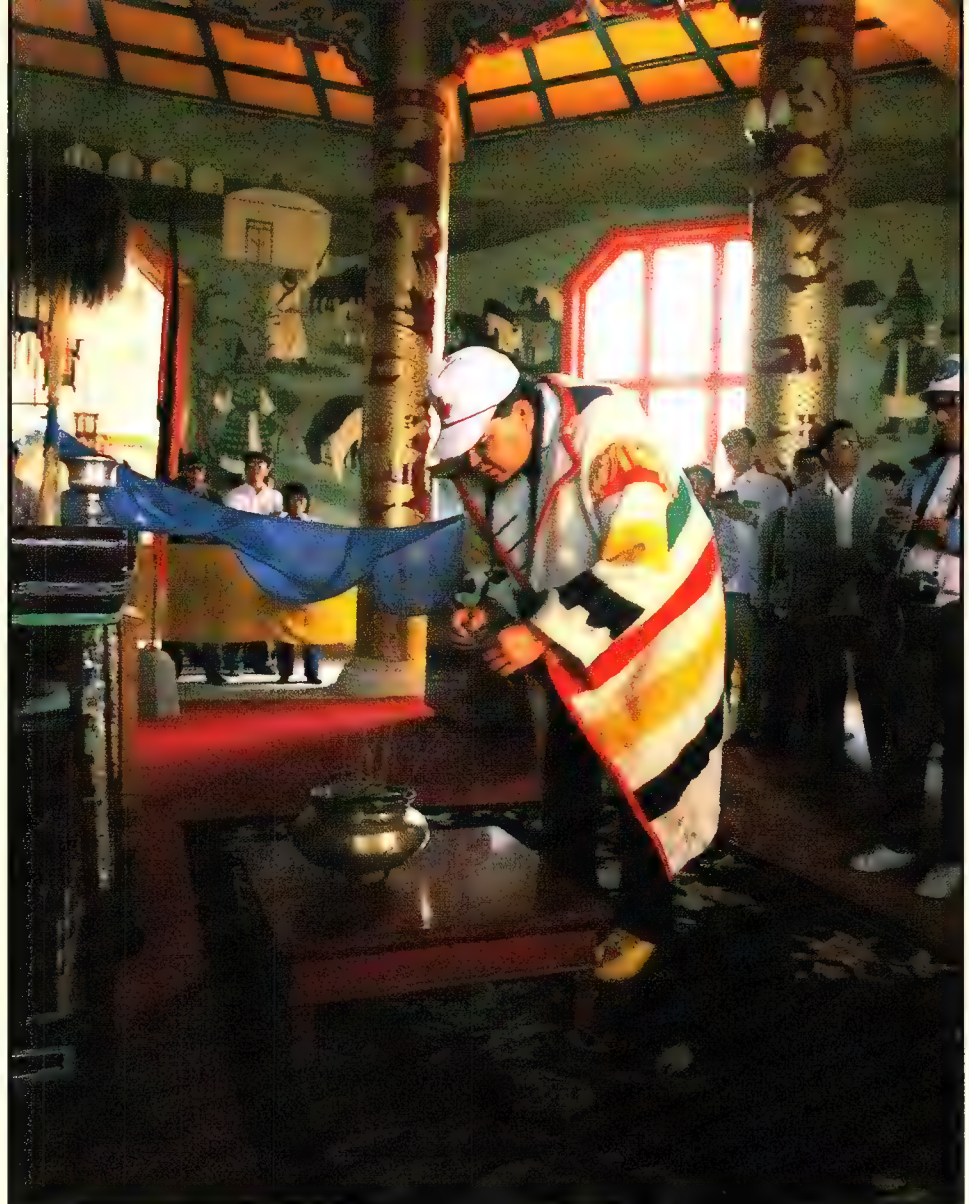
The Nadam Fair, the most important festival for Mongolians, is usually held in June or July. It is an occasion for the scattered nomad groups to get together to exchange and trade in livestock, wool and daily neces-



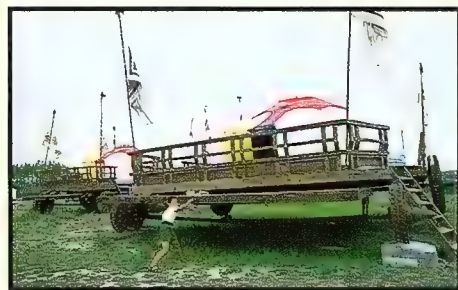




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sities, as well as a time for amusement and fun. Young people take the opportunity to make friends or even look for a possible spouse. Sports enthusiasts hold all sorts of traditional games: horse-racing, wrestling, archery and so on.

We were lucky enough to coincide with the Nadam Fair and so off we went to Siziwang (Dorbod) Banner, around 180 kilometres north of Hohhot, where the fair was held in a sort of temporary arena. Mongolians dressed in colourful traditional robes greeted one another boisterously.

After a formal opening ceremony, a number of performances and games started. Wrestlers paired off for their bouts, their vests truly eye-catching. They seemed to be made of several layers of canvas decorated with button-sized studs of brass or silver. The wrestlers' tri-coloured trousers were extremely baggy. This Mongolian wrestling is particularly exciting since there are no weight or age limits. Anyone can take part, more or less the only rule being that the opponent may not be grabbed below the waist! The

winner is the one who forces any part of his opponent's body above the knees to touch the ground.

Apart from horse-racing, there were all sorts of stunts and exhibitions of horsemanship at the gallop. The breathtaking performances won great applause. There were other items such as archery, banner-waving, etc., and the festival went on until daybreak.

**Genghis Khan's 'temporary tent palace' (1, by Wu Shouzhuan), made for a film, has lavish reproduction fittings (2) and movable campaign tents (3) (2 and 3 by Chan Yat Nin). Canadian Indians pay homage to a possible joint ancestor (5). The Whistling Sand Dune (4).**





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## Genghis Khan — Man of Mongolia

Next we headed southwest to Baotou, the largest city in Inner Mongolia, with a population of 1.5 million, where we crossed the Huanghe to the south to reach the Ordos Plateau in the Ih Ju League. The river flows around the sandy, desert-like plateau to west, north and east in an enormous loop.

This Great Bend of the Huanghe is the site of Genghis Khan's mausoleum in Ejinhoro Banner (*ejinhoro* means 'king's cemetery'), due south of Baotou.

Genghis Khan must be one of the most famous people in world history, having presided over the establishment of the greatest empire the world has ever known. A great warrior and strategist, he was also a fine

diplomat. Mongolians cherish every story, legend and myth connected with their illustrious ancestor.

The son of a Mongol chieftain, Temujin, as he was called, was born near the River Onon in 1162. After the death of his father, the then nine-year-old Temujin, his mother and brothers and sisters almost died of hunger and were harassed by enemy tribes. However, thanks to his tenacity, cunning and bravery he overcame all odds and succeeded in reorganizing his tribe. After sixteen years of battle, he then managed to unify the Mongols in 1206, when he was chosen as Great Khan or Khan of Khans. This success was followed by the conquest of most of northern China, Central Asia and eastern Europe and the

foundation of the enormous empire to which the final touches would be given by his descendants, notably his grandson, Kublai Khan, who founded the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368).

## Secret Burial

In the spring of 1226 Genghis started out on a punitive campaign against the Western Xia. While out hunting one day, he fell from his horse and never recovered. He died on August 18 1227 north of the River Wei in the mountains of eastern Gansu. As was common with Mongol rulers, the place where he was buried was covered with earth and guarded until the grass grew back to conceal it. It is said that his remains were later taken back to





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the Mongolian steppes and again buried secretly, so that their exact whereabouts is unknown.

The Genghis Khan Mausoleum at Ejinhor Banner, built in 1954 and said to be in a place which Genghis himself once picked out as a burial site, evokes the Great Khan and his military campaigns in vivid frescoes. The white marble effigy, five metres tall, which sits imposingly in the central hall, gives us a good idea of the man — tall, with cat-like eyes. In the near part of the mausoleum there are three Mongolian yurts of yellow brocade. Inside are biers which are said (not too convincingly!) to contain the remains of Genghis Khan, his wife and his younger brother.

A group of North American Indians from Canada were also visiting the mausoleum that day. They believed that, as they and Mongolians were originally nomads with ways of life similar in many respects, their two peoples may have had some connection in ancient times.

In the general area of the mausoleum, I visited a reconstruction of a tent settlement said to be an imitation of how Mongol rulers lived when on campaign. It had been erected for the TV film *Genghis Khan*.

### Ruins of the Great Wall

From the mausoleum we headed to the northern part of the Ordos Plateau and Xiangshawan (Whistling Sand Dune). Past a riverbed, we saw a vast expanse of yellow sand; in fact this stretches for four hundred kilometres across the Hobq Desert. The sand dune towered way above our heads and was horribly difficult to climb. We slid back two steps for every step we advanced. But then we discovered a rope ladder and, one after the other, clambered up. I was told that, when you slide down the dune, it makes a whistling sound which gives it its name. But that day, it refused to cooperate. I learned later that it would 'sing' only on fine dry days. As it had rained a few days before our visit, the dune would not perform for us.

We continued towards the north. Our next stop would be the Guangjue Lamasery about seventy kilometres north of Baotou.

On the way there, the driver pulled up and pointed out the ruins of the Great Wall to our left. This part of the wall was built by order of King Wuling of the State of Zhao during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) to stop the Huns from invading. After two thousand years of natural wear and tear, it is now nothing but a two-metre-high wall of

crumbling earth. According to historical records, this is the oldest section of the Great Wall. If you climb to a high point, you can see the wall running right to the horizon, rising and falling according to the lie of the land. It is a wild and somehow desolate sight.

Continuing, we soon caught sight of structures in Tibetan style set amidst willow trees — the lamasery.

*Decorated gateway at Wudang Lamasery (5), where rug-wrapped pillars add to the ambience of Suguqin Hall (1). The niche in an obo — Mongolian equivalent of a stupa — often contains Buddhist scriptures (3, by Wang Huilian). Tourist yurts (2) and the remains of the Zhao Great Wall (4).*





### Largest in Inner Mongolia

Guangjue Lamasery is quite famous. It is not only the largest of its kind among the Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism in Inner Mongolia, it is also the most respected. Over a thousand monks once lived and studied there. Its Living Buddha has a special seat in the Potala Palace in Lhasa, and those who have studied in this lamasery's theological school enjoy a high reputation among Tibetan Buddhists.

It was built during the reign of Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) of the Qing dynasty. Emperor Qianlong gave it its name in 1749. However, it is more usually known as Wudangzhao, a name combining *wudang*, the Mongolian word for the willows all around, and *zhao*, meaning 'temple'.

Modelled on the Tashilhunpo Monastery in Xigazê, the lamasery contains six sutra halls, three chambers for Living Buddhas, and some ninety other buildings. The best-known building is the three-storeyed Suguqin Hall, with an area of 1,500 square metres. This is the venue for grand ceremonies. When we first

entered the hall, we found it too dark to see anything. Gradually, however, as our eyes got used to the dim light, we were able to make out the colourful detailed murals illustrating episodes from the life of Buddha. This hall has sixty-four pillars, symmetrically arranged; each pillar is wrapped with carpets with a dragon design, splendid but restrained, adding to the reverent atmosphere.

Beyond this hall are the Dongkuoer and Rimulun Halls. The Guardian of the Law and a further eight fierce deities said to ward off evil spirits and monsters are enshrined in Dongkuoer Hall. In the centre of Rimulun Hall there is a bronze statue of the founder of the Yellow Sect, Tsong Khapa, nine metres tall, the largest statue of the saint in Inner Mongolia.

### Lake Scenery at Ulansu Nur

Our next stop was Ulansu Nur further west. This lake's name in Mongolian means 'sea of poplars'. We could hardly believe that we were still in Inner Mongolia. The water was so clear I could see the algae on the bottom. This lake

was formed when the Huanghe changed its course in the 1950s. During the first few years it was still connected to the river, but the river's course shifted ever further south. As the muddy waters of the Huanghe took their silt elsewhere, so the lake became clearer.

We rented a boat and had fun for a while on the lake. Reeds more than two metres high poked above the water. Many of them had been chopped off short to mark out a course for boats.

Most of the people in this area live on the produce of the lake. There are endless quantities of reeds, which make a good material for mat-weaving and paper-making. The lake teems with fish, hence the nearby fisheries. We happened to pass one of them later and saw fishermen drawing in a net full of the most enormous carp.

### Ancient Rock Carvings

Further west still, we took a break at Linhe in the Bayannur League, where we changed to a jeep and headed north to the Yinshan Mountains.





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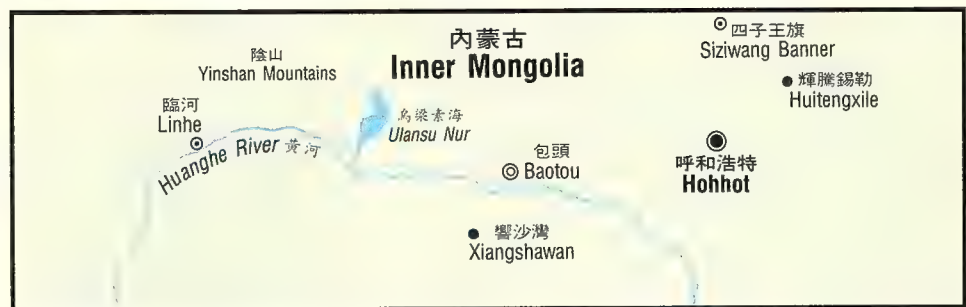
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This range, made of hard igneous rock, stretches for one thousand kilometres. From a distance, it appears like a solid grey wall, its contours magnificent and grotesque at once. There are few trees there and even fewer people. Occasionally we spotted camels or goats foraging for food.

We crawled through the valleys in our jeep for the best part of an hour before we reached our destination — a ten-metre-high cliff covered with petroglyphs, rock carvings, each half a square metre in area. We picked out camels, goats, horses, tigers.... But there were

also human figures depicted. According to expert opinion, most of the carvings date from the late Neolithic and Bronze Ages, but those done in the 2,000 or so years from 475 B.C. were executed by a fine mix of the peoples who lived in this area over the ages — Huns, Turks, Uygurs, Dangxiang, Mongolians, etc. Using stone or crude metal tools, the nomads carved all kinds of scenes on the cliff-face, illustrating their daily life, praying, holding grand religious ceremonies, hunting, dancing, fighting....

Translated by Wang Mingjie

*Ulansu Nur (1) is known for its gigantic carp (2). Sole example in Inner Mongolia, Agui Lamasery (3) belongs to the Red Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Petroglyphs in the Yinshan Mountains (4) are pointers to man's activities there in prehistory.*



# Hard to Tell It's Fake!

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN    TEXT BY HU YUE

**J**inzhou in western Liaoning Province is the location of a ceramics factory with a difference; it specializes in copying ancient painted pottery wares using modern mass production methods. The imitations are astonishingly close to the original in shape, size, colouring and texture. Deliberately 'aged' for a more authentic effect, they are inexpensive and might be the answer for someone who yearns after but cannot afford the genuine articles in antique dealers' windows!

The large quantities of painted pottery wares excavated to date provide evidence of very high artistic and technical standards ... pointers to an organized, settled society. Many of these beautiful artefacts were used for everyday purposes as cooking pots or as containers for storing foodstuffs and water.

Among the Neolithic cultures of China we can identify two principal groups: the Yangshao Culture (c. 5,000-3,000 B.C.) and the associated Majiayao Culture (c. 3,000-2,000 B.C.), often known as Gansu Yangshao, which together stretched across the loess lands of present-day Shaanxi, Shanxi, Henan and Hebei to Gansu and even Qinghai; and the related Longshan Culture (c. 3,000-2,000 B.C.) and Dawenkou Culture (from 4,300 B.C.) along the eastern seaboard.

The tall jar with a mask-like human face at its neck (1) is a copy of a relic from the Majiayao Culture. Below the face we see a male figure, also in relief, with typical 'net' cross-hatching and flowing linear designs on either side. The original is thought to have been produced by coiling a long strip of clay around a mould. Almost the only clue to distinguish the copy from the original is the rough top — a result of the mass production process used.

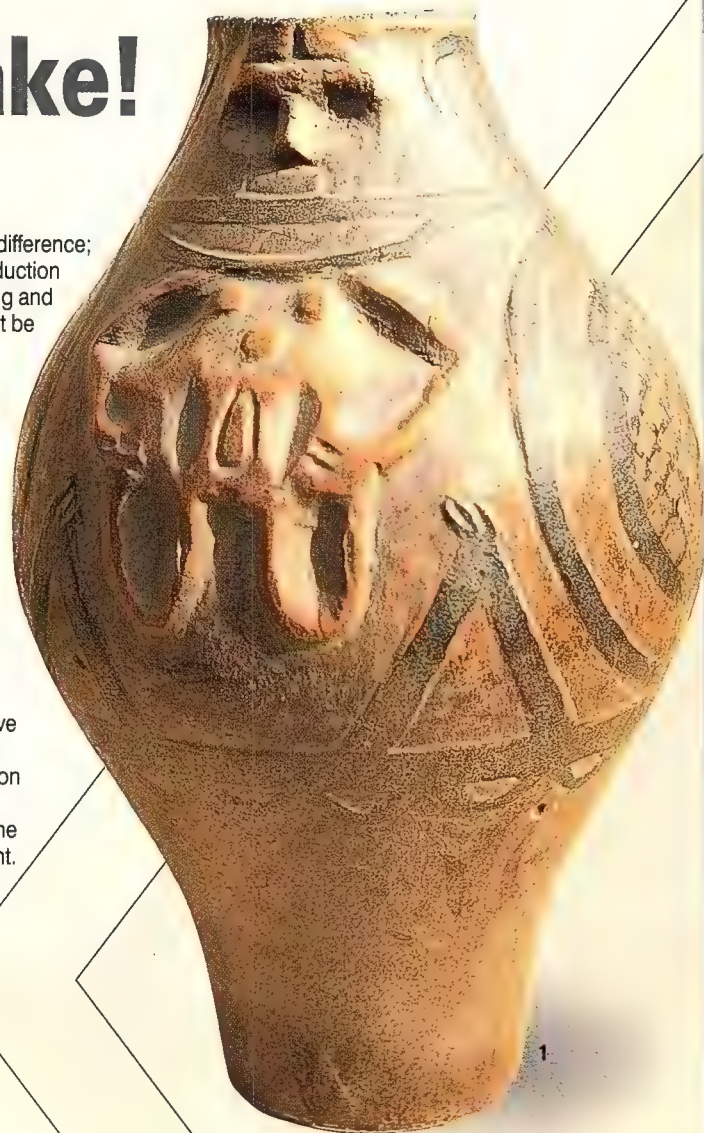
The bowl (2) imitates a famous relic unearthed at Banpo in Shaanxi belonging to the Yangshao Culture. The outer surface is decorated with three fish, each slightly different. Fish designs are typical of the Banpo phase, and experts think that elements of the fish (the eye, the tail) formed the basis for the abstract geometrical designs found later. It is shown with a tall black beaker and a pot, both replicas of Longshan wares.

This reproduction (3) of a common type of grey and black pot from Banshan close to Majiayao has been turned into modern mural art. The pot has been bisected, the triangle pattern pierced to give an openwork effect, and the half-pot mounted on a plaque. This one, at least, cannot be mistaken for an original!

A common shape in the east-coast cultures, this (4) is a *gui*, a tripod pitcher with bulbous, hollow legs. The original was excavated from a site in Weifang, Shandong, and is classified as Longshan Culture, although this type was also very popular in the Dawenkou Culture. This exquisite vessel was a precursor of the humble kettle, since it could be placed over a fire to heat liquids.

The narrow-mouthed, single-eared pot which forms the base for the desk lamp (5) is a copy of a relic from the Majiayao Culture. Its finish is particularly subtle, the fine-grained burnished and painted sections alternating with bands of a nubby texture. ☞

Translated by Gu Weizhou







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# Images from the Asian Games

TEXT BY QIN CHUAN



Among the thousands of participants in the opening ceremony at the Workers' Stadium were these waist-drum dancers from Ansai, a county situated on the loess plateau in Shaanxi Province. The young farmers demonstrated the simple, archaic dances based on the martial traditions of China's northwest, with plenty of noise and action.

**(Photo by Ren Chenming)**



**B**eijing, as the world knows, hosted the 11th Asian Games from September 22 to October 7, 1990. Over 4,600 athletes from thirty-seven countries and regions of Asia gathered in the Chinese capital, breaking more than a few world records during the course of competition.

The host country's 'haul' exceeded all expectations, with Chinese athletes garnering an astonishing 183 gold medals, 107 silver medals and 51 bronzes, and breaking one world and ninety-six Asian Games records. South Korea came in second overall, with Japan in third place. This was the third consecutive time that China had won the largest number of gold medals at the Asian Games.

The Asiad was the biggest international sporting event staged to date by China, and the general consensus of opinion was that it was a success. All the cheering and shouting is long since over, but some scenes have lingered in our minds.



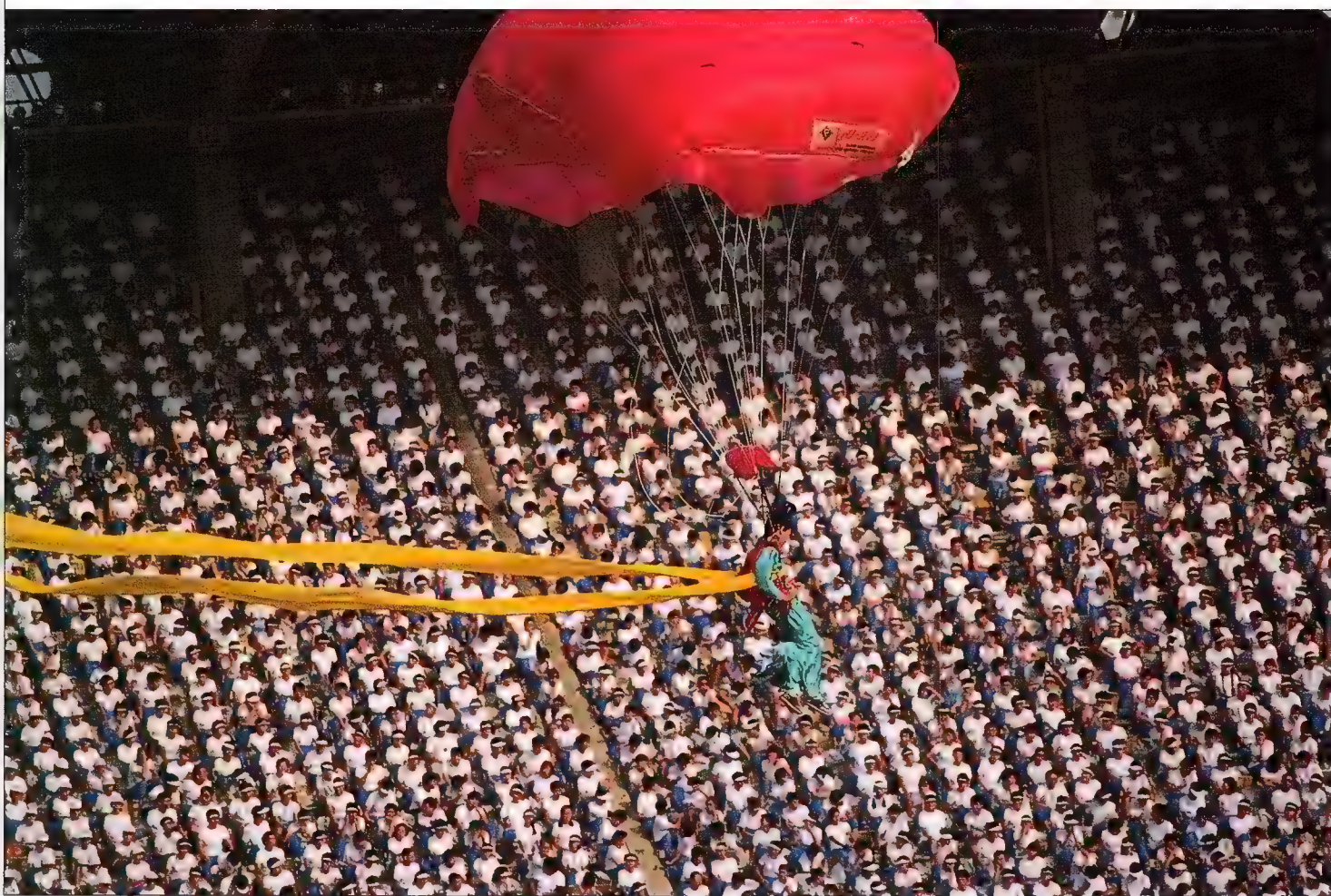
Not to be outdone by the waist-drum dancers were these colourful performers from neighbouring Shanxi Province, just across the Huanghe (Yellow River). Equally virile in their approach, these men — who called themselves the Weifeng (literally, 'Strong Wind') Drum and Gong Troupe — sang ancient tunes punctuated by gong beats.

*(Photo by Wang Miao)*



Forty-five minutes before the start of the opening ceremony, the assembled spectators and guests watched with delight as over seventy parachutists descended in groups into the stadium from five planes. The first group held up the logo of the Games and banners of the participating countries; the second executed the difficult pyramid formation in the air; while the third group, a female team, sprinkled flowers as they floated down in classical costumes complete with trailing silk ribbons like so many celestial maidens.

**(Photo by Cheng Weidong)**



Stalls selling all manner of things proliferated outside the various competition venues. Apart from souvenirs connected directly with the Games, traditional Chinese arts and crafts such as this ear-warming cap of yellow silk were in great demand by visitors to the Chinese capital.

**(Photo by Cheng Weidong)**





The white and green logo of the Asian Games stand out through the concentrated efforts of 1,800 Beijing schoolchildren. Ideally, they should not themselves be visible, but the excitement of the occasion was just too much for several of the youngsters, who could not bear to miss a minute of the proceedings and risked a peek over the top of the coloured boards.

**(Photo by Ren Chenming)**



The mere fact of not having tickets for the grand ceremony was not enough to discourage many Beijing residents. Kids and parents made their way to a vantage point near the main stadium and were able to join in the fun from a distance as the parachutists descended and the celebratory music and spectators' cheers rang out across the city streets.

**(Photo by Wu Zhijiu)**



From the beginning of September (if not earlier), the atmosphere of excitement built up palpably as the time for the big event approached. Banners and slogans littered the city and the ubiquitous mascot of the 11th Asian Games — Pan Pan the cute panda — started to turn up on key rings, commemorative coins, T-shirts, hats and much more. This Pan Pan, one of the most widely photographed, graced the Workers' Stadium.

**(Photo by Guo Jianshe)**



At the opening ceremony, students from Beijing's universities and sundry sports academies went through a routine with rattan rings. Their flowing movements and smooth changes in formation harmonized particularly well with the Western music chosen as accompaniment.

**(Photo by Guo Jianshe)**



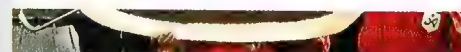
This gymnast is performing one of the most graceful of the floor exercise segments — the ribbon routine. In her elegant costume, concentrating on showing her agility, poise and strength to best advantage, she emits a mysterious allure like an exotic black snake.

**(Photo by Wu Zhijia)**



One of the aspects of the Games which did not meet with universal approval were the noisy cheer squads. There were 116 of them, involving up to 50,000 people! These were organised groups, among whom were 10,000 university students who frequently found themselves having to return to their campuses as late as one or two in the morning.

**(Photo by Wang Wenlan)**







Despite the critical situation in the Middle East in September 1990, Kuwait managed to send sixty-five athletes to the Games. They competed in five events and were applauded enthusiastically as a gesture of support and sympathy. The applause was particularly strong as they entered the stadium for the opening ceremony.

**(Photo by Wu Zhijiu)**



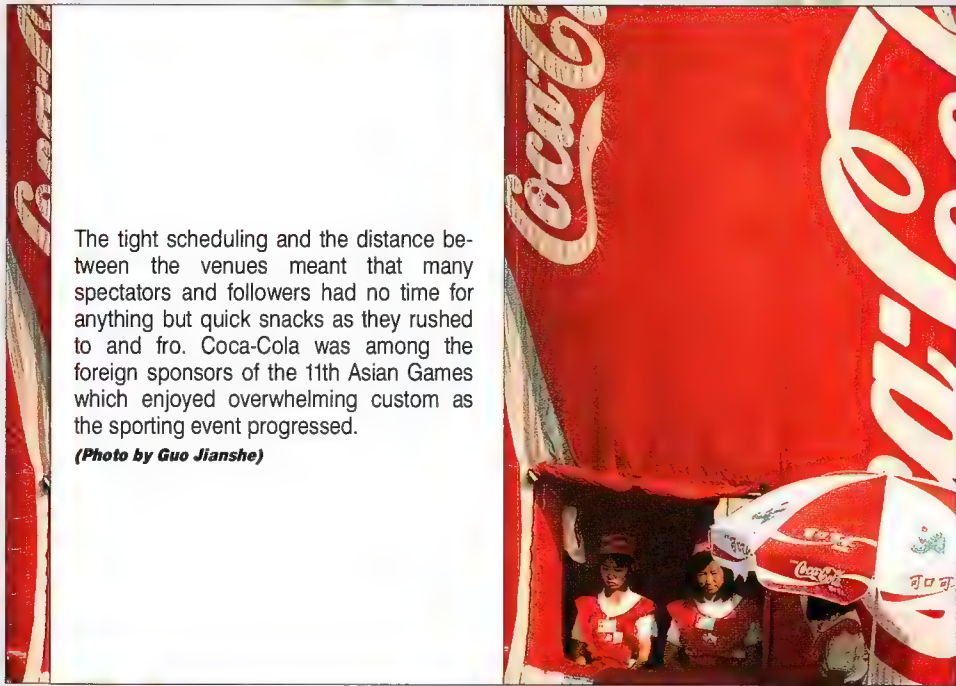
One of the more exotic sports making its debut at this Asian Games was *sepak takraw*, played with a rattan ball and the feet, which requires immense skill and athleticism. Since it is highly popular and established in the countries of Southeast Asia, it was no surprise that Malaysia carried off the gold medal from Thailand and Singapore.

**(Photo by Wang Wenlan)**



The tight scheduling and the distance between the venues meant that many spectators and followers had no time for anything but quick snacks as they rushed to and fro. Coca-Cola was among the foreign sponsors of the 11th Asian Games which enjoyed overwhelming custom as the sporting event progressed.

**(Photo by Guo Jianshe)**



One can only hope that competitors in the track events were warned that they might face unexpected competition, especially during the latter stages of the relay race! This group of bronze athletes was especially commissioned for the Asiad.

**(Photo by Gao Guande)**





The Peacock Dance of the Dai people of Yunnan's Xishuangbanna is among the most evocative of all of China's folk dances. This was a highlight of the closing ceremony as dancers performed light, tripping steps to conjure up a vision of peacocks displaying their resplendent tail feathers.

**(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)**



On October 7, 1990 the night exploded into life with countless fireworks resembling giant star clusters. Domestic or foreign, the audience delighted in the auspicious spectacle. As the 11th Asian Games came to an end, the giant screen lit up with an invitation to meet again in 1994 in Hiroshima in Japan, the next Asiad host country.

**(Photo by Guo Jianshe)**

Translated by M.K.



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# A Hoklo We



**U**p in the northeastern corner of the New Territories of Hong Kong lies the small coastal town of Sha Tau Kok, straddling the border between China and Hong Kong. Owing to its remoteness from the urban area, little development has taken place there, and it has been home for many decades to about three thousand Hoklo fishing people who live in a district called Yim Liu Ha.

The son of one of the fishermen, a Mr Lee, had met a local Cantonese girl from a nearby village, fallen in love, and they planned to get married. An auspicious day in the spring of 1989 was chosen for the wedding, with the marriage being registered in the town of Tai Po prior to the date.

On the day appointed for the wedding ceremony, guests were advised to arrive early for the festivities. It was easy to spot the home of the bridegroom a hundred yards down one of the narrow streets, for around the doorway was draped a narrow length of red cotton while in the centre, hanging from the lintel, was a freshly cut leg of pork. Inside the house were hung two blankets with the Chinese characters for double-happiness stitched to them, together with many bank notes stitched on either side. These were presents from the two families.

Outside in the street female relatives and friends of the groom were busy

practising the Dragon Boat Dance. Although the Hoklo people in Sha Tau Kok have been settled on land for several decades, they still keep many of their customs from the time they lived on the water. So instead of the bridegroom being transported by boat to fetch his bride, nowadays he is carried along in a procession on land by pairs of women pretending to row a dragon boat. These women were gaily dressed with straw hats decorated with artificial flowers and with embroidered collars and aprons over their traditional *samfu*, the side-fastening jacket and loose trousers. They each carried a painted piece of wood representing an oar.

Soon the procession was ready to leave the groom's home. The women formed themselves into four pairs, with one woman at the front to bang the gong and another at the back who carried a fan and had plastic food utensils attached to her person. She was said to represent the tail of the dragon! Then, at a given signal, the women set off at a steady pace, moving with a rhythmic rocking motion to suggest the rowing of a boat.

They were followed by two men who formed the front and back of a mythical beast, the *chi-lin* (*qilin*), while behind them walked members of the band banging the gong and clashing cymbals. Then came the groom and his best man,





# dding



4



3

wearing Western suits of the latest fashion. The best man held a black umbrella draped with a strip of red cotton over the groom. Although it was not raining, bad spirits may have been about, and it is common Chinese tradition to protect those who are about to be married to prevent harm from befalling them.

The procession reached the temple of Ma Jo, the Hoklo name for Tin Hau (Tianhou or Mazu in Mandarin). The women redoubled their rowing efforts and the *chi-lin* cavorted and stretched as the groom and best man paid homage to the temple god. Firecrackers were set off, then the procession continued, stopping next at the shrine of the earth god, To Dei Gung, at the entrance to the village. More vigorous dancing from the women, the *chi-lin* pouncing and posturing, then incense was burned as a sign of respect and the god offered food from a basket of carefully arranged chickens and other tasty morsels. The groom and best man bowed to the god, more firecrackers exploded, then the procession reformed to return to the house, taking with it the basket of food.

After a short rest in the house, the

procession regrouped once more and accompanied the bridegroom back to the entrance to the village where the cars were parked. Members of the wedding party then left the village to collect the bride. After half an hour the cars returned with the bride and groom and their respective attendants. More firecrackers were lit to scare off any evil spirits which may have been brought into the village, cymbals clashed and the *chi-lin* cavorted around the car, covering it, touching it and bowing to each corner. Two women with bamboo poles and tin cans attached danced as the assembled crowd fought enthusiastically to get a good look at the bride. She was dressed in the traditional *hung kua*, a red silk jacket and skirt with an embroidered dragon and phoenix design in gold and silver, while her hair was decorated with cypress leaves and gold ornaments.

The dragon boat procession reformed and set off in the direction of the groom's house where the newly-weds would live. In front of the couple were women rowing in formation, while others banged gongs or thumped a drum. Behind the bride walked a woman who held a sieve over the bride's head containing pomelo

leaves, cypress leaves and ginger root to represent a new start to life, long life, and many children. Other attendants carried jewellery which the bride had been given as part of her dowry. Another woman carried an enamel basin decorated with the characters for double-happiness, and which contained food and other items wrapped in red paper and decorated with cypress leaves.

The procession stopped briefly in front of the earth shrine and the Ma Jo temple where homage was again paid to the gods. Finally the couple reached their marital home where long strings of firecrackers were set off to scare away any lingering bad spirits. After a short rest, the bridegroom's parents were symbolically offered tea by the bridal pair, and then a series of banquets took place to round off the day's festivities.

**Valery M. Garrett**

**The sieve containing pomelo leaves, cypress leaves and ginger root (1); Dragon Boat procession with *chi-lin* in background (2) and the woman (right) representing the dragon's tail (3); bride and groom bow before the Ma Jo Temple (4).**

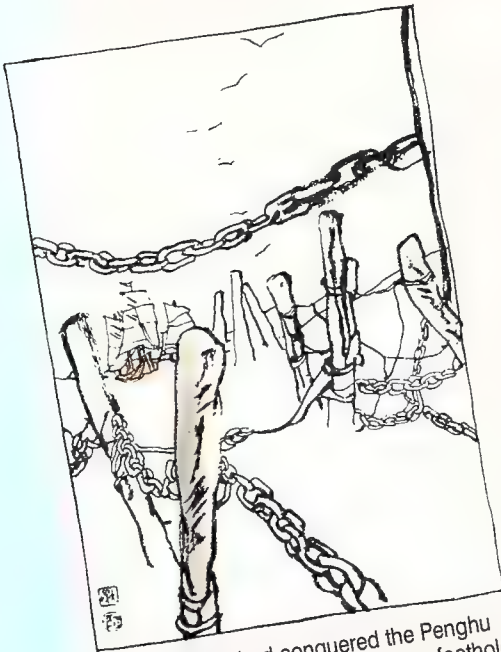




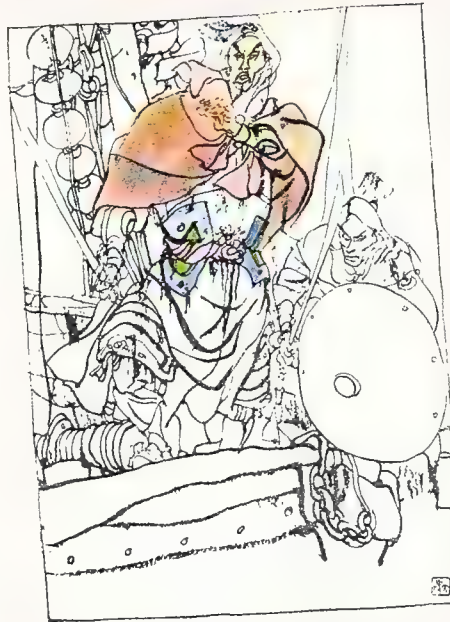
# Zheng Chenggong Retakes Taiwan

DRAWINGS BY SHI DAWEI

**Z**heng Chenggong (1624-1662) was born in Japan, his mother being the daughter of a Japanese nobleman. He was taken to his father's native place — Nan'an County near Quanzhou in Fujian Province — when he was seven years old.



4. The Dutch had conquered the Penghu Islands in 1622 before gaining a foothold in southwestern Taiwan. They successively built Fort Zeelandia (now known as Fort Anping) and Fort Providentia (on the site of the Chihkan Tower) in the vicinity of present-day Tainan.

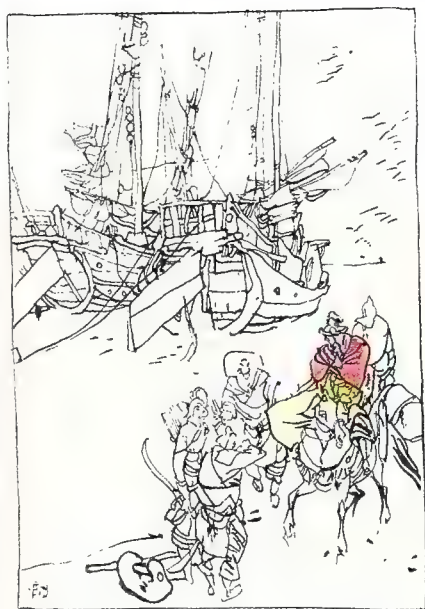


5. In 1661, Zheng and his army of some 25,000 men sailed from Jinmen Island in around 300 war junks and landed at Luermen (literally, 'Deer Ear Gate'), a shallow bay north of Tainan. He laid siege to Fort Zeelandia.



6. As Zheng undertook sorties into the surrounding areas to extend his control, he enlisted the aid of the indigenous tribes. These are usually referred to collectively as the Gaoshan, 'mountain people'.





1. In 1644, when he was twenty, he joined his father Zheng Zhilong in fighting for the government, the so-called Southern Ming, the Ming dynasty in Beijing having just fallen to the armies of the Qing. When the Southern Ming's first capital in Nanjing was captured, another regime sprang up in Fuzhou in Fujian which was in turn overthrown in 1646.



2. His father surrendered, but Zheng continued the struggle. His first base was at Nan'ao Island in eastern Guangdong, then the islands of Xiamen and Jinmen, gathering more and more Ming loyalists to his banner. In the course of the next ten or so years, he gained control of many islands along the coasts of Fujian, Guangdong and Zhejiang.




3. In 1659, following a failed attempt against the Qing at Nanjing, he was forced to retreat. He decided to move his base to the island of Taiwan, which at that time was under Dutch rule.

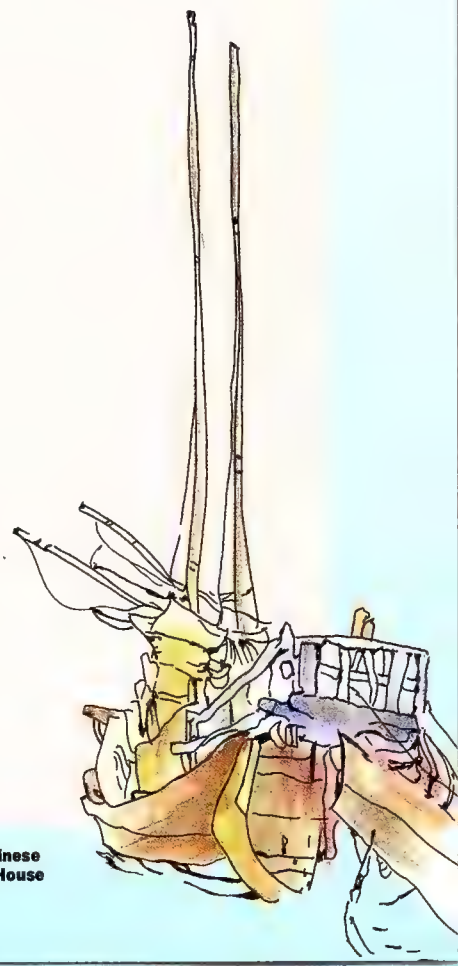


7. Zheng launched an all-out attack against the Dutch headquarters in January 1662 and the Dutch fleet was seriously damaged by fireboats laden with explosive. In February the Dutch governor surrendered and Zheng allowed him to withdraw, thus ending the 38-year period of Dutch rule over Taiwan.



8. Zheng fell ill and died later that same year at the age of only thirty-eight. A temple was built in his honour. Although, as a Ming loyalist, he was a traitor in the eyes of the Qing dynasty which gained control of Taiwan in 1683, his deeds were gradually recognized. Taiwan now has over fifty temples and shrines dedicated to Zheng Chenggong, deified as a national hero. 

Translated by M.K.







# Southern Fujian

## Preparing for a Boom



**PHOTOS BY PENG ZHENGE**  
**ARTICLE BY MEGINA KWAN**

**T**he people of Fujian are generally known for their business instincts. And recently, as a direct result of the more relaxed situation in the Taiwan Straits, there has been much greater opportunity for them to give free rein to this quality. Since business is likely to burgeon in the coming years, the Fujianese are preparing for a boom.

In the past two years the province has been visited by many Taiwanese who, apart from seeing long lost friends and relatives, have also expressed interest in doing business there and have actively explored possibilities. According to unofficial estimates, Taiwanese have made more than one million trips to China in general since mid-1987, spending approximately US\$4 billion on trips, while businessmen have invested US\$1 billion in manufacturing and service industries.

Commercial and industrial development is taking place primarily along the coast, where the largest and most important cities of this province are located. The mountainous hinterland is however being developed for



*Traditional and modern combine in this Hui'an girl's attire (by Li Jiancheng)*

tourism purposes, with investment in resort areas in the beautiful Wuyi Mountains hotting up in recent years and bringing considerable improvements in infrastructure.

Seen through the perspective of history, Fujian has probably been as much a land of natural disasters as opportunities: regularly swept by typhoons, with only about twenty percent of land suitable for cultivation. In the past, the high mountains along its northern border effectively cut it off from inland China and thus in a sense forced its people to turn to the sea for their trade links.

The 'Silk Road of the Sea', the maritime trading routes which developed as wars and the conditions across the northwestern deserts of the old Silk Road made that route towards the markets of Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe impracticable, ran from its ports. At the time of the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368), Quanzhou was the second greatest port in the world after Alexandria, a magnet for Arab and other foreign merchants, whose mark can still be seen in





*Xiamen's waterfront with new Customs Building on left*

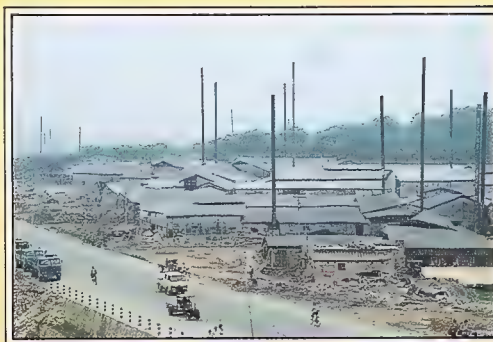
some of the earliest mosques in China. One of Fujian's most ancient causeway bridges can also be seen in the vicinity of Quanzhou. Spanning the bay that separates the counties of Jinjiang and Nan'an, it was built in 1138 during the Southern Song dynasty; it is 2.25 kilometres long and built of huge stone slabs, the largest weighing twenty-five tons.

In modern times, Fujian is known for its vast numbers of new bridges and first-grade roads. However, its railway links are still of necessity constrained by the mountainous terrain and great rivers, and travellers find it much quicker to take a long-distance bus along the coastal road than to travel by rail between Xiamen and Fuzhou, since the train makes a great loop inland.

Fuzhou, the provincial capital, with its port at Mawei, has a long sea-faring tradition. This was one of the first of China's ports to be declared open in 1979. But in this article I would like to concentrate on the area covered in our Special Features this month, in other words, the area of coast lying more or less directly opposite Taiwan.



*Nike sports shoes are also manufactured in southern Fujian*



*The chimneys of Jinjiang*



*Privately-owned restaurant in Quanzhou*

Along this section, Quanzhou and Xiamen are the major cities. They lie fairly close together in the southeastern part of the province. Most of the people in this area speak the Minnan (Southern Min, Min being an ancient word for Fujian) dialect. This dialect is also spoken in the vicinity of Shantou and Chaozhou in eastern Guangdong Province, in some places on Hainan Island and widely in Taiwan, as well as in many Overseas Chinese communities, Fujian having been one of the main areas from which Fujianese emigrated in large numbers, even in the early part of this century. Many Overseas Chinese retire to China in their older years. One of the most famous examples was the Singaporean businessman and philanthropist Tan Kah Kee (1874-1961), who did so much for Xiamen. This past year, while tourism arrivals in general for China have been depressed, these





*Graceful old villas – an attraction of Xiamen's Gulangyu Island*



*Good seafood can be found all along the Fujian coast*

Overseas Chinese and Taiwanese links have meant that Fujian, especially the southeast, is still doing relatively well.

Xiamen (Amoy), opened to foreign trade in 1842 following the Opium War, has a natural deep-water harbour, but its potential has not yet been realized. Recently, the city has developed strongly, with a lot of new high-rise buildings. The port welcomes large cargo vessels and passenger liners running to Shanghai, Guangzhou and ports in Southeast Asia; there is also a direct steamer link to Hong Kong twice a week.

Taiwanese businessmen are very interested in Xiamen. This is a pleasant place to live, with its subtropical climate, modern hotels (often joint ventures in themselves), excellent seafood, and good communications. A number of joint-venture companies have been set up in the Special Economic Zone, established in 1981, processing supplied materials, including manufacturing plants for Kodak film and Nike sports shoes.

According to China's *Economic Daily* of September 25 1990, a hi-tech industry development zone is to be built in the northern suburbs of Xiamen. The projected eighty-hectare site is only 1.6 kilometres from the international airport, and the first phase is to be completed in three to five years' time. The intention is to locate eight key industries in the zone, including micro-electronics and information, laser, new energy, energy-saving, and biological and marine technologies and products.

The small island of Wuyu near Xiamen has also grown from one of the quietest to the most prosperous of the nearby islands. Apart from fishing, ship-building has now become the major industry with the largest shipyards in Fujian, which have also attracted investment from outside.

Famous and prosperous as it was in antiquity for at least a thousand years, Quanzhou nevertheless was in decline until recently. Its port of Houzhu started to silt up during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) and it lost its position to Xiamen. It only began to open up gradually again in the 1980s. The port facilities need renovation on a large scale. But it can still take ships of up to 3,000 tons, and cargo is transported from here to Hong




Kong, Singapore, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. Quanzhou is also the recipient of largesse from Taiwanese and Overseas Chinese visitors who send money to relatives here and sometimes invest. This has certainly helped to boost the local economy and raise living standards.

This ancient city, 196 kilometres from Fuzhou and 106 from Xiamen, has a rich cultural heritage, evident in its religious buildings (many of which have spawned 'branches' on Taiwan) and its historical relics. But its residents' interest in certain aspects of modern life is also clear, as is the Taiwanese influence in pop music — Quanzhou and neighbouring areas can receive Taiwanese TV programmes. The city streets show proof of flourishing initiative in the private sector: on a small scale, certainly, but the spirit is there. Private restaurants and food stalls have sprung up everywhere, and the latest craze is for pets — dogs, cats and songbirds — so that pet shops are doing good business.

Just south of Quanzhou and under its administration is the county of Jinjiang. The

Quanzhou-Xiamen Highway which takes one there is flanked by small factories and plants, each topped by a tall chimney. Apparently, most of the factories in Jinjiang specialize in construction materials such as ceramic tiles and bricks, mostly for distribution to other areas of China.

South of Jinjiang (and originally part of it) is the boom town of Shishi. Shishi and the surrounding area were totally closed thirty to forty years ago but, since its re-opening ten years ago, it has achieved remarkable prosperity. The stable population of the town is only around eighty thousand, but it is said that at least that number come into the town on business or looking for work every day! Shishi is famous for its bags and offers a huge variety of styles for men, women and children. It also has garment-manufacturing factories. It has particularly strong links with the Overseas Chinese communities in the Philippines. The local saying typifies the town's enterprising spirit: 'Give a five-year-old child two eggs, and she will make a profit.'

Down at the southernmost tip of Fujian Province is Dongshan County, centred on Dongshan Island and administered by Zhangzhou. The island is becoming a popular resort area for expatriates working in joint ventures in the area. 



*Pop concert in a village south of Jinjiang  
(by Lin Zhiliang)*



*The port of Houzhu, Quanzhou*



*Quanzhou street scene*





## Fujian Hotel Directory

### Fuzhou

#### Donghu (East Lake) Hotel

東湖賓館

44 Dongda Rd., Fuzhou  
Tel: 557755 Telex: 92171 DHFZ CN  
Fax: (0591)-555519

GM: Zhang Wenping

Around 300 rooms Rates: US\$32-61

Located in the hot spring area.

Facilities: Banqueting and conference amenities, 7 Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, hot springs.

#### Fujian Foreign Trade Centre Hotel

福建外貿中心酒店



Photo by Hai Ling



By Hai Ling

Wusi Rd., Fuzhou  
Tel: 550154 Telex: 92158 FTC CN  
Fax: 550358

GM: Yin Guoqing

165 rooms Rates: US\$44-84

Located in the commercial district.

Facilities: Business centre, transport service, Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, disco, hairdresser, hot springs.

#### Fuzhou Overseas Chinese Mansion

福州華僑大廈

Wusi Rd., Fuzhou  
Tel: 557603 Telex: 92275 OCHFZ CN  
Fax: (0591)-550648

GM: Zhang Sunzhu



By Yang Beizhao

270 rooms Rates: US\$38-43

Completely renovated in 1987.

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, ticketing service, foreign exchange, hot spring bathwater, massage.

#### Hot Spring Hotel

溫泉大廈



By Yang Beizhao

Wusi Rd., Fuzhou

Tel: 551818 Telex: 92180 HSHFZ CN

Fax: (0591)-535150

GM: Yan Jianguo

311 rooms Rates: US\$55-150

Located in the heart of the city.

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, 24-hour room service, conference room, banquet hall, bowling centre, sauna, business centre.

#### Lakeside Hotel Fuzhou

福州西湖大酒店



By Lin Geng



By Hai Ling

1 Hubin Rd., Fuzhou  
Tel: 539888 Telex: 92265 FUHBC CN  
Fax: (0591)-536585

GM: Lu Xiangqian

436 rooms Rates: US\$60-150

Located beside the West Lake, the 19-storey hotel is 20 minutes away from the airport and only a few minutes from the commercial district. Managed by CTS Management Co. Ltd., Hong Kong.

#### Minjiang Hotel

閩江飯店

Wusi Rd., Fuzhou

Tel: 557895 Telex: 92146 MJHT CN

Fax: (0591)-551489

GM: Chen Tian'en

402 rooms Rates: US\$18-22

Facilities: Chinese (Fujianese, Jiangsu and Cantonese) and Western restaurants, secretarial services, disco, hot spring bathrooms.

### Xiamen

#### Lujiang Hotel

鷺江賓館

54 Lujiang Rd., Xiamen

Tel: 22922 Telex: 93024 LUTEL CN

Fax: (0592)-24622

GM: Liu Aizhi

130 rooms Rates: US\$54-66

Located on the seafont opposite the ferry pier for Gulangyu Island.

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, banquet and conference rooms, disco.

#### Xiamen Hotel

廈門賓館



16 Huyuan Rd., Xiamen

Tel: 24941 Telex: 93065 GUEST CN

Fax: (0592)-21765

GM: Li Sibin

264 rooms Rates: US\$70-1,200

Located in the Xiamen Special Economic Zone.

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, banquet rooms, conference room, swimming pool, sauna, disco. The Presidential Suite offers the most luxurious accommodation in Fujian Province.

#### Xiamen Mandarin Hotel

廈門悅華酒店



By Lin Geng



Foreigners' Residential Area, Huli, Xiamen 361006  
Tel: 43333, 48888 Telex: 93028 MANDA CN  
Fax: (0592)-41431

GM: Zhang Hongshu  
208 rooms and 22 self-contained villas Rates: US\$65-180  
Located in a green, out-of-town setting 10 km from airport, railway station and passenger port.  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, nightclub, international conference centre, business centre, shops, beauty salon, sauna, bowling ground, tennis courts, swimming pool, disco.

#### Xiamen Overseas Chinese Mansion

廈門華僑大廈  
70-74 Xinhua Rd., Xiamen  
Tel: 25602 Telex: 93029 CTSXM CN  
Fax: (0592)-31862

GM: Yan Guangxi  
236 rooms Rates: US\$34-76  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, banquet rooms, conference and business centre.

#### Xindeco Hotel Xiamen

廈門信息酒店  
Xinglong Rd., Huli Industrial District, Xiamen  
Tel: 41784 Telex: 93027 INFKM CN  
Fax: (0592)-41814

GM: Xu Xixiong  
Rates: US\$55-120  
Located in the Special Economic Zone.  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, 24-hour room service, transport, shopping.

## Zhangzhou

#### Overseas Chinese Hotel Zhangzhou

漳州華僑飯店  
33 North Xinhua Rd., Zhangzhou  
Tel: 229988 Telex: 93137 FZO CN  
Fax: (0596)-225201

GM: Tao Min  
158 rooms Rates: US\$20-35  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, foreign exchange, postal service, business services, ticketing and tours.

#### Zhangzhou Guesthouse

漳州賓館  
4 Shengli Rd., Zhangzhou  
Tel: 223322 Fax: (0596)-223431

GM: Kang Hanmin  
Around 180 rooms Rates: US\$15-32  
A garden-style hotel with nine buildings; No.5 Building is the most modern, with central airconditioning, etc.  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants (South Fujianese cuisine a speciality), business services, shops, garden.

#### Zhangzhou Overseas Chinese Mansion

漳州華僑大廈  
38 Yan'an North Rd., Zhangzhou  
Tel: 226614 Telex: 93137 FZO CN  
Fax: (0596)-226620

GM: Lin Wendian  
57 rooms Rates: US\$13-20  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, clinic.

## Quanzhou

#### Golden Fountain Hotel

金泉酒店  
Baiyuanqing Chi, Quanzhou  
Tel: 225078 Telex: 93083 CTSQZ CN  
Fax: (0595)-224388  
GM: Lin Shouchang  
91 rooms Rates: US\$35-74

Located beside Lake Baiyuanqing.  
Facilities: Fujianese, Cantonese and Western restaurants, banquet hall.

#### Quanzhou Overseas Chinese Mansion

泉州華僑大廈  
Baiyuanqing Chi, Quanzhou  
Tel: 222192 Telex: 93083 CTSQZ CN  
Fax: (0595)-223311

GM: Lin Shouchang  
197 rooms Rates: US\$24-35  
Facilities: Banquet hall, Fujianese and Cantonese restaurants, disco.

## Shishi

#### Shishi Overseas Chinese Mansion

石獅市華僑大廈  
Shishi  
Tel: 471646 Fax: (0595)-471643  
GM: Qiu Mufa  
97 rooms Rates: US\$28-43  
Operated by China Travel Service.

## Dongshan

#### Huafu Hotel Dongshan

東山華福酒店



By Yang Beizhao

Xibu, Dongshan  
Tel: 20550 Telex: 93090 DFH CN  
Fax: (05064)-20550

## Wuyishan

#### Wuyi Mountain Villa

武夷山莊



By Hai Ling

Wuyishan (formerly Chong'an)  
Tel: 32683 Fax: (05098)-32567  
GM: Zhao Jiankang  
70 rooms Rates: US\$17-33  
Located at the foot of Changting Peak in the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area. Prize-winning architectural design based on traditional northern Fujianese courtyard style. Well-equipped rooms with airconditioning.

# Taiwan Hotel Directory

## Taipei

#### The Ambassador Hotel

台北國賓大飯店  
63 Chung Shan N. Rd., Sec. 2, Taipei  
Tel: (02)551-1111 Telex: 11255, 11184  
Fax: (02)561-7883, (02)531-5215  
477 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,700-5,300; twin 4,300-6,300

Facilities: Restaurants, bar, coffee shop, banquet & conference, parking, facilities for disabled persons, swimming pool, laundry, golfing, barber shop, beauty parlour, shopping arcade, exchange, business information, cocktail lounge.

#### Asiaworld Plaza Hotel

環亞大飯店  
100 Tun Hwa N. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)715-0077 Telex: 26299 ASIAWRD  
Fax: (02)713-4148  
720 rooms Rates: single NT\$4,725-6,300; twin 4,725-5,460

Facilities: 27 food & beverage outlets, convention hall, cultural centre, poolside snack bar, ballroom, Taipei Int'l Bankers Club, Taipei Int'l Ladies Club, La Parc Cafe, business centre, shopping arcade, parking.

#### Brother Hotel

兄弟大飯店  
255 Nanking E. Rd., Sec. 3, Taipei  
Tel: (02)712-3456 Telex: 25977, 28930 BROHOTEL  
Fax: (02)717-3334, (02)717-5657  
282 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,800-3,100; twin 3,500  
Facilities: Convention & banquet rooms, restaurants, coffee shop, shopping arcade, sky lounge, beauty salon, barber shop, transportation service, parking.

#### Taipei Fortuna Hotel

富都大飯店  
122, Chung Shan N. Rd., Sec. 2, Taipei  
Tel: (02)563-1111 Telex: 21578 FORTEL  
Fax: (02)561-9777  
304 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,300-3,750; twin 4,200-4,850  
Facilities: In-house movies, secretarial services, health club, sauna, beauty salon, florist, magazine shop, business centre.

#### Fortune Dai-Ichi Hotel

龍普大飯店  
172 Chung Hsiao E. Rd., Sec. 4, Taipei  
Tel: (02)772-2121 Telex: 19794, 19795 FODAHTL  
Fax: (02)721-0302, (02)731-5682  
312 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,100-4,200; twin 4,200  
Facilities: Laundry, business centre, shopping arcade, lobby lounge, bar, coffee house, restaurants, airport transfer service, parking, convention & banquet hall.

#### Gloria Hotel

華泰大飯店  
369 Lin Shen N. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)581-8111 Telex: 11192 GLORIATEL  
Fax: (02)581-5811  
220 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,500-4,050; twin 4,050-5,600  
Facilities: Bars, coffee shop, restaurants, health centre, sauna, convention hall.

#### Golden China Hotel

康華大飯店  
306 Sung Chiang Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)521-5151 Telex: 19550 GOLDNATL TAIPEI  
Fax: (02)531-2914  
240 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,200-2,600; twin 2,600-3,500



Facilities: Travel & business information centre, souvenir shop, conference room, Tu-Kang Lounge, Phoenix Restaurant, Palace Hall, banquet hall, parking.

### The Grand Hotel

#### 圓山大飯店

1 Chung Shan N. Rd., Sec. 4, Taipei  
Tel: (02)596-5565 Telex: 11646, 11647 GRANDHTL  
Fax: (02)594-8243  
530 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,800-4,600; twin 3,000-5,000

Facilities: Cocktail bars, coffee shop, Western and Chinese restaurants, Chinese teahouse, barber shop, beauty parlour, swimming pool, bowling alley, tennis courts, convention hall, shopping arcade.

### Grand Hyatt Taipei

#### 台北凱悅大飯店

2 Sung Shou Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)720-1234 Telex: 12738 GHYATT  
Fax: (02)720-1111

873 rooms Rates: NT\$5,000-6,600

Opened September 1990.

Facilities: Bakery, pub, restaurants (Cantonese, Shanghaiese and Japanese), tea lounge, entertainment centre, business centre, fitness centre, outdoor pool, ballroom, meeting rooms, Regency Club, florist.

### Hilton International Taipei

#### 台北希爾頓大飯店

38 Chung Hsiao W. Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei  
Tel: (02)311-5151 Telex: 11699, 22513  
Fax: (02)331-9944

413 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,800-4,600; twin 4,250-5,100

Facilities: Roof garden, outdoor jacuzzi, health club, bars, shopping arcade, flower kiosk, restaurants, Executive Floor rooms, business centre, banquet & conference rooms, parking.

### Howard Plaza Hotel

#### 福華大飯店

160 Jen Ai Rd., Sec. 3, Taipei  
Tel: (02)700-2323 Telex: 10702, 24095 HOPLATEL  
Fax: (02)700-0729, (02)705-2803

606 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,500-5,400; twin 4,400-5,700

Facilities: Restaurants, bar, business centre, outdoor swimming pool, health centre, sauna, banquet & conference hall, shopping mall, parking.

### Imperial Hotel

#### 華國大飯店

600 Lin Shen N. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)596-5111, 596-3333 Telex: 11382, 11780 IMPTEL  
Fax: (02)592-7506

336 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,900-3,200; twin 3,300-3,500

Facilities: Conference room, sauna, barber shop, beauty salon, health club, restaurants, bar.

### Lai Lai Sheraton Hotel Taipei

#### 來來大飯店

12 Chung Hsiao E. Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei  
Tel: (02)321-5511 Telex: 23939  
Fax: (02)394-4240

705 rooms Rates: single NT\$4,500; twin 4,750-5,500

Facilities: Executive rooms, restaurants, lounges, health centre, jogging track, swimming pool, squash courts, sauna, business centre, conference rooms, shopping arcade.

### Mandarin Hotel

#### 中泰賓館

166 Tun Hwa N. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)712-1201 Telex: 11386 TAIPEI  
Fax: (02)712-2122

351 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,900; twin 3,400-4,600

Facilities: Tennis courts, swimming pool, health centre, sauna, parking, gardens, discotheque, convention halls, laundry, shopping centre, beauty salon.

### Hotel Taipei Miramar

#### 美麗華大飯店

420 Min Chuan E. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)505-3456 Telex: 19788  
Fax: (02)502-9173, (02)507-2001

584 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,200; twin 3,400  
Facilities: Restaurants (Western, Japanese and Chinese), coffee shop, member's club, sauna, barber shop, bar, swimming pool.

### President Hotel

#### 統一大飯店

9 Ten Hwei St., Taipei  
Tel: (02)595-1251 Telex: 11269 PRESIDENT  
Fax: (02)591-3677

469 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,200-4,000; twin 4,410-5,600

Facilities: Club restaurants (Western and Chinese), bar & cocktail lounge, money exchange, airlines booking counter, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty parlour, barber shop, airport transfer service, conference rooms.

### Hotel Rebar Crown

#### 力霸大飯店

32 Nanking E. Rd., Sec. 5, Taipei  
Tel: (02)763-5656 Telex: 14207  
Fax: (02)767-9347, (02)756-0765

246 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,900-4,200; twin 4,200-4,500

Facilities: Coffee shop, restaurants (Western and Cantonese), piano bar, banquet hall, conference rooms, health & fitness centre, business centre, roof garden.

### The Regent of Taipei

#### 麗晶酒店

41 Chung Shan N. Rd., Sec. 2, Taipei  
Tel: (02)523-8000 Fax: (02)523-2828

570 rooms Rates: single NT\$5,500; twin 6,000-6,800  
Opened August 1990.

Facilities: Restaurants, steak house, coffee shop, lounges and meeting rooms, ballroom, business centre, beauty salon, parking.

### The Ritz Hotel

#### 亞都大飯店

155 Min Chuan E. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)597-1234 Telex: 27345  
Fax: (02)596-9222, (02)596-9223

283 rooms Rates: single NT\$4,000; twin 4,200-5,600  
Facilities: Restaurants (Chinese and French), coffee shop, piano bar, banquet hall, fitness centre, beauty salon, sauna, jacuzzi, library.

### Hotel Riverview Taipei

#### 豪景大酒店

77 Huanbo S. Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei  
Tel: (02)311-3131, (02)311-3688 Telex: 11609 RIVTEL

Fax: (02)361-3737

201 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,200; twin 4,000

Facilities: Parking, restaurants, bar, palm garden, coffee shop, waterfront piano lounge, conference room, VIP banquet room.

### Hotel Royal Taipei

#### 老爺大酒店

37-1 Chung Shan N. Rd., Sec. 2, Taipei  
Tel: (02)542-3266 Telex: 23915  
Fax: (02)543-4897

203 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,400-3,600; twin 3,800-4,000

Facilities: Restaurants (French, Chinese and Japanese), coffee shop, lobby lounge, piano bar, laundry, car park, business executive lounge, health centre, outdoor swimming pool, tailor shop, barber shop, beauty salon, gift shop, florist.

### Santos Hotel

#### 三德大飯店

439 Cheng Teh Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)596-3111 Telex: 27155 SANTEL

Fax: (02)596-3120  
304 rooms Rate: NT\$3,100

Facilities: Restaurants (Chinese and Western), coffee shop, cocktail lounge, sauna, convention room.

### The Sherwood Hotel Taipei

#### 西華大飯店

637 Min Shen Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)713-0707 Telex: 11449 SHERWOOD  
Fax: (02)713-3626

345 rooms Rates: single NT\$5,500-6,400; twin 5,900-6,400

Facilities: Restaurants, banquet rooms, health club, business lounge, swimming pool, sauna, massage, hairstyling salon, meeting rooms, parking, shopping arcade.

### Taipei United Hotel

#### 國聯大飯店

200 Kuang Fu S. Rd., Taipei  
Tel: (02)773-1515 Telex: 11679 UNIHOTEL  
Fax: (02)741-2789

248 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,250; twin 3,600-4,000

Facilities: Restaurants (Cantonese, French and Western), buffet, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, banquet rooms, executive business service, souvenir shop.

## Taoyuan

### Taoyuan Holiday Hotel

#### 桃園假日大飯店

269 Dah Hsing Rd., Taoyuan  
Tel: (03)325-4021 Telex: 31590 HOLIN  
Fax: (03)325-1222

391 rooms Rates: single NT\$1,600; twin 1,800

Facilities: Swimming pool, tennis court, banquet & conference hall, restaurants, nightclub.

### Taoyuan Plaza Hotel

#### 南華大飯店

151 Fuhsing Rd., Taoyuan  
Tel: (03)337-9222 Telex: 33115 TAOPLAZA  
Fax: (03)337-9250

272 rooms Rates: single NT\$960; twin 1,200

Facilities: Coffee shop, Chinese restaurant, nightclub.

## Taichung

### Hotel National

#### 全國大飯店

257 Chung Kang Rd., Sec. 1, Taichung  
Tel: (04)321-3111 Telex: 51393 NATALHTL  
Fax: (04)321-3124

450 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,600-2,800; twin 2,800-4,200

Facilities: Coffee shop, restaurants (Chinese and Western), shopping arcade, sauna, nightclub, cocktail lounge, conference rooms, swimming pool, parking.

### Park Hotel

#### 敬華大飯店

17 Kung Yuan Rd., Taichung  
Tel: (04)225-5181 Telex: 51525 PARKTEL  
Fax: (04)222-5757

124 rooms Rates: single NT\$1,200-1,600; twin 1,500-1,900

Facilities: Restaurant, coffee shop, nightclub, bar, gift shop, pizza shop.

### Plaza International Hotel

#### 通豪大飯店

431 Ta Ya Rd., Taichung  
Tel: (04)295-6789 Telex: 57206 PINTL  
Fax: (04)293-0099

226 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,900; twin 3,200-3,600

Facilities: Restaurant, bar, coffee shop, conference rooms, business centre, executive member's club, sauna, health centre, beauty parlour, barber shop, rooftop pool, parking.



## Nantou

### Sun Moon Lake Hotel

日月潭中信大飯店

23 Chung Cheng Rd., Sun Moon Lake, Nantou  
Tel: (049)855-911 Telex: 11144 CTCOM TAIWAN  
Fax: (049)855-268

116 rooms Rates: single NT\$1,600; twin 1,800-2,100  
Facilities: Restaurant, cocktail lounge, gift shop, table tennis, swimming pool, parking, 9-hole golf course, convention room.

## Chiayi

### Gallant Hotel

嘉南大飯店

257 Wen Hua Rd., Chiayi  
Tel: (05)223-5366 Telex: 72789 GATEL  
Fax: (05)223-9522

106 rooms Rates: single NT\$1,500; twin 1,700-1,900  
Facilities: Restaurants (Japanese, Western and Chinese), nightclub, coffee shop, bar, swimming pool, sky lounge, roof garden, convention room, banquet room, parking, souvenir shop.

## Tainan

### Hotel Tainan

台南大飯店

1 Cheng Kung Rd., Tainan  
Tel: (06)228-9101 Telex: 71365 TANHOTEL  
Fax: (06)226-8502

151 rooms Rates: single NT\$1,000; twin 1,200-1,500  
Facilities: Restaurants (Chinese and Western), coffee shop, bar, ballroom, laundry, gift centre, swimming pool, convention room.

## Kaohsiung

### The Ambassador Hotel, Kaohsiung

高雄國賓大飯店

202 Min Sheng 2nd Rd., Kaohsiung  
Tel: (07)211-5211 Telex: 72105  
Fax: (07)281-1113, (07)281-1115

457 rooms Rates: single NT\$3,000; twin 3,400-5,000  
Facilities: Restaurants (French, Japanese, Cantonese and Szechuanese), banquet halls, swimming pool, nightclub, shopping arcade, souvenir shop, sauna, beauty parlour, barber shop, cocktail lounge, art gallery, rooftop garden, laundry, parking.

### The Grand Hotel Kaohsiung

高雄圓山大飯店

Cheng-Ching Lake, Kaohsiung  
Tel: (07)383-5911 Telex: 71231 GRANDHTK  
Fax: (07)381-4889

108 rooms Rates: NT\$2,300-2,500  
Facilities: Restaurants, coffee shop, convention hall, bar, barber shop, beauty salon, gift shop, laundry, tennis courts, gymnasium, parking, swimming pool, sauna, golf driving range.

### Hotel Holiday Garden

華園大飯店

279 Liu Huo 2nd Rd., Kaohsiung  
Tel: (07)241-0121 Telex: 81948 GARDEN  
Fax: (07)251-2000

313 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,650-3,460; twin 2,850-3,460

Facilities: Restaurants, cocktail lounge, coffee shop, garden, swimming pool, bar, health club, jacuzzi, nightclub, beauty parlour, barber shop, parking.

### Hotel Kingdom

華王大飯店

42 Wu Fu 4th Rd., Kaohsiung

Tel: (07)551-8211 Telex: 81938 KINGDOM

Fax: (07)521-0403

302 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,500-3,200; twin 3,000-3,600

Facilities: Restaurants (Chinese and Western), coffee shop, bar, cocktail lounge, beauty parlour, barber shop, convention & banquet hall.

### Kingwang Hotel

京王大飯店

329 Chi Hsian 2nd Rd., Kaohsiung  
Tel: (07)281-4141 Fax: (07)282-0381

150 rooms Rates: single NT\$1,500; twin 1,700  
Facilities: Coffee shop, nightclub, restaurant (Western and Chinese), parking.

### Hotel Major

名人大飯店

7 Ta Jen Rd., Kaohsiung  
Tel: (07)521-2266 Telex: 72121 MAJOR  
Fax: (07)531-2211

216 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,100-2,300; twin 2,300-2,800  
Facilities: Restaurants (Western and Chinese), coffee shop, bar, souvenir shops, laundry, conference & banquet rooms.

### Summit Hotel

皇統大飯店

426 Chiu Ju 1st Rd., Kaohsiung  
Tel: (07)384-5526 Telex: 72423 SUMMIHTL  
Fax: (07)384-4739

211 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,000; twin 2,200  
Facilities: Parking, bar, coffee shop, restaurants (Western and Chinese), conference & banquet rooms.

## Pingtung

### Caesar Park Hotel-Kenting

凱撒大飯店-墾丁

6 Kenting Rd., Hengchun Town, Ping Tung Hsien  
Tel: (08)889-5222 Telex: 71882 CAESARKT  
Fax: (08)889-4729

250 rooms Rates: single NT\$4,200; twin 4,200-4,900  
Facilities: Bar, lounge, shopping arcade, recreation room, diving service station, tennis courts, swimming pools, children's playground, sauna, gymnasium, nursery, table tennis, barber shop, beauty salon.

## Hualien

### Astar Hotel

花蓮亞士都大飯店

6-1 Minchuan Rd., Hualien  
Tel: (038)326-111 Telex: 11540 ASTAR INC  
Fax: (038)324-604

170 rooms Rates: single NT\$1,200-1,600; twin 2,500-3,800  
Facilities: Restaurants (Western and Chinese), coffee shop, banquet & conference room, parking, swimming pool, souvenir shop, currency exchange, bowling alley, beach garden.

### Chinatrust Hualien Hotel

花蓮中信大飯店

2 Yong Shing Rd., Hualien  
Tel: (038)221-171-185 Fax: (038)221-185  
237 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,500; twin 2,700-3,000  
Facilities: Restaurant, coffee shop, swimming pool, meeting & banquet room, ballroom, parking.

### Marshal Hotel

統帥大飯店

36 Kung Yuan Rd., Hualien  
Tel: (038)326-123 Fax: (038)326-140  
346 rooms Rates: single NT\$2,000; twin 2,000-3,000  
Facilities: Restaurants (Chinese and Western), coffee shop, bar, meeting & banquet room, gift shop, bus tours, swimming pool, sauna.



*Contributions  
Welcome!*

Do you have a story to tell about your experiences in China? Do you have practical travel tips you would like to pass on to other travellers? Have you taken high-quality photographs which you feel other readers would appreciate?

We are always happy to receive such contributions and readers whose offerings we find we can use will of course be compensated accordingly. Please contact our Editorial Department for further details.





## Islands of Fujian

Scattered off the coast of Fujian Province are more than 2,000 islands and islets. Each has its own distinctive features. Apart from Meizhou Island, covered in our Special Features articles, quite a few of them are tourist attractions.



**Xiamen Island** is the most famous. Known as Egret Island in the past, this granite island has an area of 128 square kilometres (it measures 12.5 kilometres from east to west and 13.5 kilometres from north to south). Now linked to the mainland via a causeway built in 1955, it is the location of the municipality of Xiamen, Fujian's second largest city and special economic zone.

North of Xiamen, at the eastern tip of the Jimei promontory, lies **Aoyuan (Turtle Garden)**, once a separate island. Shaped like a turtle, it has an area of 9,000 square metres. In the early 1950s, Tan Kah Kee (1874-1961), a wealthy Singaporean industrialist and a native of Jimei, built the garden here and linked it to Jimei by a causeway. In the garden stands a monument, Tan Kah Kee's tomb, and many stone carvings. Jimei itself is full of the results of Tan Kah Kee's philanthropy.

**Gulangyu Island**, located southwest of Xiamen, has an area of less than two square kilometres. With its verdant foliage and grotesque rocks, it is known as the 'Garden on the Sea'. At its southwestern tip there is a huge granite rock concealing a cave. At high tide, when the waves crash into the cave, they create a thunderous noise like the beating of a drum. Hence the name Gulang (Drum Wave) given to both this rock and the island. Longtou (Dragon Head) Hill faces Hutou (Tiger Head) Hill on Xiamen Island; the two were once known as 'Dragon and Tiger on Guard'. The 90-metre-high Riguang (Sunlight) Rock on Longtou Hill is one of the island's scenic highlights and provides excellent views. Apart from its elegant Western-style villas, the legacy of Xiamen's days as a treaty port in the second half of the nineteenth and the early twentieth century the island also boasts a bathing beach.

**Pingtan**, also called Haitan, the largest island under Fujian's administration, lies southeast of Fuzhou, the provincial capital. It has a freshwater lake named Thirty-Six Arm Lake, resembling a giant octopus with tentacles stretching out in all directions. Granite rocks shaped like pillars and mushrooms and honeycombed with caves resulting from erosion stand on its banks — the lake was at the bottom of the sea millions of years ago. It is fed by rain and spring water.

**Dongshan** in southwestern Fujian is also linked to the mainland by a causeway.



## New Destinations

### Dongshan Island

This island off the southern tip of the Fujian coastline is the second largest in the province, with an area of 188 square kilometres, a large population and rich natural resources. Linked to the mainland via a causeway, the island is quite prosperous, with thriving agriculture, fishing and industry. The port of Dongshan is important for southern Fujian; it lies 98 nautical miles from the Penghu Islands, 110 from Kaohsiung, 77 from Xiamen and 210 from Hong Kong. Shaped like a butterfly, the island has seven moon-shaped coves on its south-eastern coast. It has many natural attractions and historic sites.

For more information, contact the Dongshan County Tourism Bureau at Lane 61, Longwu Street, Xibu, Dongshan County (tel. 53255).

#### Getting There

From Hong Kong, Dongshan Island is accessible by air, ship or direct bus to Shantou in eastern Guangdong and Xiamen in Fujian, followed by connecting bus.

#### Highlights

The **Old City of Tongshan**, actually a fortress, is located in the northeastern corner of Tongling and was built in 1387 in the early Ming dynasty for defence against bandits and pirates. With walls seven metres high and 400 metres long, it had ten canons, 46 ships and 1,141 soldiers at its disposal under the command of General Qi Jiguang (1528-1587), who successfully repulsed two attacks. The good general is remembered locally by a sort of biscuit made at the spring equinox every year. The fortress was also a bastion of Zheng Chenggong for eighteen years in his battle against the Qing.

Built in 1389 opposite the fortress, the **Guan Yu Temple** is dedicated to the God of War. It is quite small but well worth a visit. It is supported solely by six stone pillars and contains interesting carvings.

The **'Wind-Moving Rock'** weighs 200 tons and is 4.7 metres tall. Located on Goulou Hill not far from the Guan Yu Temple, it looks rather like a rabbit from a distance and moves when the wind is strong; it is actually stable.

**Dongmenta (East Gate Pagoda) Islet** is the largest reef in Dongshan Bay. It is surmounted by a Ming-dynasty pagoda, hence its name.

**Jiuxianding (Nine Immortals Rock)** is a coastal village northwest of Tongling dating from the Ming dynasty. General Qi and his troops repulsed bandits and Zheng Chenggong trained his naval forces here.

**Maluan Bay** lies on the eastern side of the island, two kilometres from Tongling. It has a lovely beach, 2.5 kilometres long and sixty metres wide, with unpolluted waters and faces the Taiwan Straits. Dolphins are apparently common visitors.

### Meizhou Island

Since Meizhou Island was reopened to the public, it has become a major tourist draw, primarily because of its Mazu Temple, as we saw in Special Features.

With an area of sixteen square kilometres, the island measures 9.6 kilometres from north to south and 1.3 kilometres from east to west. It has a wide forest belt and thirty kilometres of coastline, with beaches stretching twenty kilometres in all. It has 32,000 inhabitants, most of whom are engaged in fishing.

#### Getting There

**By air:** Fly from Hong Kong to Fuzhou (one-way ticket HK\$990, 1 hour 10 minutes), then take the four-hour bus ride to Putian and Wenjia Pier for Meizhou Island. Or fly from Hong Kong to Xiamen (one-way ticket HK\$870, one hour), then take the six-hour bus ride via Quanzhou, Putian and Wenjia Pier to the island.





For details of schedules, see tables here or contact China Travel Service (H.K.) Ltd. (tel. 853-3888).

**By bus:** Take the Hong Kong-Fuzhou bus, alighting at Putian (HK\$259, dep. 08:00, arr. 07:00 the following day); then take the local bus from Putian to Wenjia Pier and Meizhou Island. Alternatively, take the direct bus from Shenzhen (Overseas Chinese Building) to Putian (HK\$194, dep. 11:40, arr. 10:00 the following day).

**By boat:** The *Jimei* sails from Hong Kong to Xiamen on Tuesday and Friday (dep. 14:00, arr. 10:00 the following day). Prices range between HK\$400 and 700, depending on cabin class.

**N.B.:** The normal boat service between Wenjia and Meizhou Island runs every 20 minutes from 08:00 to 15:00, with extra services at festival periods.

For further details, please contact Putian Travel Agency in Putian (tel. 23196, 22203, 22361).

### Lodgings

The **Hotel Tiangong (Celestial Palace)** (tel. 23833, 23818) has good-quality airconditioned rooms, Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, discotheque, etc. For reservations in Hong Kong, please phone 547-3008.

The island has around twenty restaurants and shops catering for domestic and foreign visitors.

## Fujian's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Changding C	長汀縣	Shaowu	邵武市
Chong'an C	崇安縣	Shouning C	壽寧縣
Fuding C	福鼎縣	Shunchang C	順昌縣
Fuzhou	福州市	Songxi C	松溪縣
Guangze C	光澤縣	Wuping C	武平縣
Jian'ou C	建甌縣	Xiamen	廈門市
Jianyang C	建陽縣	Xiapu C	霞浦縣
Liancheng C	連城縣	Yongding C	永定縣
Longyan	龍岩市	Zhangping C	漳平縣
Nanping	南平市	Zhangzhou	漳州市
Ningde	寧德市	Zhenghe C	政和縣
Pingnan C	屏南縣	Zherong C	柘榮縣
Pucheng C	浦城縣	Zhouning C	周寧縣
Putian	莆田市		
Quanzhou	泉州市		
Sanming	三明市	<b>Note:</b>	
Shanghang C	上杭縣	C: County	

### Flights to and from Fuzhou/Xiamen

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Guangzhou — Fuzhou	1 4 6	16:35	17:50	CZ3505
	2 4 5 7	17:35	18:55	MU5318
Fuzhou — Guangzhou	1 4 6	18:35	19:50	CZ3506
	2 4 6	15:25	16:50	MU5317
Guangzhou — Xiamen	1 6	14:15	15:30	CZ3807
	2 4 6	07:10	08:25	CZ3803
	3 5 7	12:15	13:20	MU5388
	1 3 5 6 7	20:15	21:20	CZMF8302
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:30	09:35	CZMF8306
Xiamen — Guangzhou	1 6	20:05	21:20	CZ3808
	2 4 6	20:45	22:00	CZ3806
	3 5 7	15:15	16:30	CZ3804
	1 3 5 6 7	10:30	11:40	MU5387
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:25	19:35	CZMF8301
Hong Kong — Fuzhou	1 3 5	17:40	18:45	MU5010
	2 4 6 7	11:45	12:55	CZ3056
Fuzhou — Hong Kong	1 3 5	12:15	13:26	MU5006
	2 4 6 7	15:25	16:50	MU5009
Hong Kong — Xiamen	1 3 5	09:25	10:45	CZ3055
	2 4 6 7	10:00	11:25	MU5005
Xiamen — Hong Kong	1 3 5	19:10	20:10	CZ386
	2 4 6 7	17:30	18:30	CZ384
Xiamen — Fuzhou	1 3 5	12:15	13:15	CZ382
	2 4 6 7	17:00	18:00	CZ385
Fuzhou — Xiamen	1 3 5	15:25	16:40	CZ383
	2 4 6 7	10:10	11:25	CZ381
Fuzhou — Xiamen	1 3 5	07:45	08:30	MF8801
	2 4 6 7	16:05	16:55	MU5521
Fuzhou — Xiamen	1 3 5	13:45	14:30	CZMF8802
	2 4 6 7	17:30	18:20	MU5522

(Valid Winter 1990 — Spring 1991)

### Restaurants in Fujian Province

City	Name	Address	Specialities	Telephone
Fuzhou	Ju Chun Yuan Restaurant	130 Baiyiqi Road	Fujian cuisine	553038 533230
	Yuewexiang Restaurant	Dongda Road	Guangdong cuisine	557755
	Fuzhou Restaurant	36 Dongda Road	Fujian cuisine	551396
	Cuiyugong Restaurant	Dongda Road	Fujian cuisine	557755
	Rongcheng Restaurant	Bell Tower, Dongjiekou	Fujian cuisine, seafood	534856 555816
	Wei Zhong Wei Restaurant	104 Baiyiqi Road North	Fuzhou dishes	534833
	Shanghai Restaurant	Bell Tower, Dongjiekou	Western dishes and deserts	553620
	Chongqing Restaurant	105 Baiyiqi Road North	Sichuan cuisine	550615
	Beijing Restaurant	12 Dongjie Street	Beijing and Shandong cuisines	32784 32334
	Yantaishan Restaurant	Yantaishan Garden	Birds Dishes	541545
Xiamen	Jiangsu Restaurant	Wusi Road	Yangzhou dishes	557895
	Fuhao Seafood Restaurant	14 Fuyuan Road	Guangdong cuisine	24127
	Shanghai Restaurant	5-7 Dongmen Road	Western dishes	26372
	Lüdao Restaurant	232-234 Zhongshan Road	Guangdong and Fujian cuisines	22264 21531
	Xinnanxuan Restaurant	17-39 Siming Road South	Fujian cuisine	23979 23968
	Haoqingxiang Eating House	30-32 Dayuan Road	Southern Fujian cuisine	22973
	Xiamen Hotel Restaurant	16 Huyuan Road	Fujian, Guangdong, Chaozhou and Western dishes	21764
	Yanyun Restaurant	103-105 Siming Road North	Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong dishes	26635
	Tianxin Restaurant	59 Xinhua Road	Guangdong cuisine	26477
	Tianfu Restaurant	4 Huyuan Road	Sichuan cuisine	31392
Quanzhou	Xinsha Restaurant	16 Siming Road North	Fujian cuisine	24274
	Qinglian Seafood Restaurant	307 Zhongshan Road	Guangdong and Fujian cuisines	26577
	Zhonghua Dumplings Restaurant	311 Zhongshan Road	Dumplings and deserts	—
	Jinquan Restaurant	Near the Baiyuanqing Pond	Guangzhou and Fujian dishes	5078
	Huaqiao Building Restaurant	Near the Baiyuanqing Pond	Fujian cuisine	2192
	Baiyuan Restaurant	Workers' Cultural Palace	Fujian cuisine	2859
	Hexiang Restaurant	Dongda Road	Fujian cuisine	5643
	Minnan Restaurant	16 Datong, Beijing Road	Banquets and noodles	3825
	Zhishan Restaurant	Yan'an Road North	Banquets, snacks	3986
	Xiangcheng Restaurant	Beijing Road	Banquets, snacks	4674
Zhangzhou	Guangfa Beef Shop	16 Taigu Bridge	Beef noodles and beef dishes	—
	Minxiang Restaurant	Xinhua Road North	Western banquets and deserts	3146
	Haiwei Restaurant	Yan'an Road	Seafood banquets	—



# Fujian's Climate

The coast of Fujian lies between latitudes 24 and 26° north in the 'quasi-tropical' zone. The summer temperature is thus more moderate than further inland while the winters are mild — around 10 to 12°C. There is virtually no frost or snow (except in the mountains) and hardly any winter as such, but a long spring, summer and autumn.

The sheltering Wuyi Mountains in the northern part of the province, with an average height of 1,000 metres rising to a maximum of 2,158 metres above sea-level (Mount Huanggang), are the reason why the Fujianese coastal strip is warmer than other places in China on the same latitude. For example, the average temperature in Fuzhou in January is 10.5°C whereas in Chenzhou in Hunan it is only 5.8°C. In summer, on the contrary, the July average is 28.8°C for

Fuzhou as against 29.2°C for Chenzhou. However, the temperature can rise to around 36°C.

Given the climate, the natural foliage consists largely of evergreen broadleaf species. Fuzhou itself boasts many banyan trees and is nicknamed Banyan City. According to legend, this is because, in the Song dynasty (960-1279), a governor of Fuzhou encouraged the people to plant them. Quanzhou is famed for its large numbers of Indian coral trees (*Erythrina indica*) while, on Gulangyu Island off Xiamen, coconut palms can be found in profusion, the furthest north they grow in China. Bananas have been grown in the area of Zhangzhou for over seven hundred years, and it is also known for its lychees, pineapples, longans and narcissus cultivation.

But the coast is also subject, every year, to fierce winds, with typhoons common between the months of May and November. It has been estimated that over 80% of all typhoons to hit China land in either Fujian or neighbouring Guangdong. The Wuyi Mountains help when the winds are from the east, and slow the wind behind the coastal strip.

The typhoons that hit the area on around a hundred days of the year create havoc to crops, buildings and people, but they do at least bring rain during the summer drought. Fujian's rainfall is heaviest from March to June. The coast receives an annual rainfall of around 1,000 to 1,200 millimetres while elsewhere in the province the figure is between 1,500 and 2,000 millimetres, with torrential downpours and surface run-off in the Wuyi Mountains.

Average Climatic Conditions in Fujian

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Fuzhou	Temperature (°C)	10.5	10.7	13.4	18.2	22.1	25.5	28.8	28.2	26.0	21.7	17.5	13.1
	Rainfall (mm)	49.8	76.3	120.0	149.7	207.5	230.2	112.0	160.5	131.4	41.5	33.1	31.6
Xiamen	Temperature (°C)	12.6	12.6	15.0	19.1	23.1	26.1	28.4	28.2	27.0	23.3	19.4	15.2
	Rainfall (mm)	37.3	66.9	76.5	124.0	154.7	207.1	150.4	144.0	96.3	32.1	27.8	26.1
Quanzhou	Temperature (°C)	11.9	11.8	14.6	19.3	23.6	25.7	28.7	28.4	26.9	23.0	19.4	14.6
	Rainfall (mm)	38.2	70.1	89.1	129.4	151.0	243.8	138.2	167.0	88.1	32.9	27.4	26.9
Zhangzhou	Temperature (°C)	12.7	13.2	15.8	20.0	24.0	26.4	28.7	28.4	26.8	22.7	19.2	15.1

Climatic Conditions of Taiwan

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Taipei	Temperature (°C)	L	10.1	12.9	14.4	18.4	20.7	24.3	25.6	24.4	23.9	20.8	17.1	15.0
		H	11.6	18.4	22.5	26.2	29.3	33.2	34.7	34.5	32.5	26.1	23.4	21.5
	No. of fine days		14	18	27	19	17	15	9	13	19	23	16	20
Taichung	Temperature (°C)	L	9.4	12.8	14.3	19.3	21.7	24.1	25.3	24.2	23.2	20.3	15.4	13.8
		H	20.3	22.4	24.6	28.6	30.5	32.7	34.1	32.9	32.0	29.0	26.4	23.9
	No. of fine days		21	21	27	20	10	14	11	11	27	29	23	23
Kaohsiung	Temperature (°C)	L	13.7	15.3	17.2	21.7	23.7	26.4	26.1	25.1	24.7	22.2	18.7	16.8
		H	20.6	22.3	24.5	27.6	29.8	31.9	31.5	30.6	30.2	27.6	24.7	23.1
	No. of fine days		24	22	28	27	17	18	12	8	26	29	28	27
Hualien	Temperature (°C)	L	13.1	14.6	16.6	19.3	21.0	24.2	25.0	23.9	23.8	21.3	18.4	16.4
		H	18.5	20.1	23.1	25.7	27.4	30.5	31.9	31.6	30.8	26.7	24.6	22.4
	No. of fine days		14	14	23	11	7	15	14	13	19	19	11	11

L—Lowest H—Highest

Train Schedules  
Fuzhou—Xiamen

392/393 O.	Train Station	394/391 O.
17:49	Fuzhou	09:29
18:57	Mingqing	08:21
20:06	Gutian	07:05
21:39	Nanping	05:40
22:30	Laizhou	04:56
23:46	Shaxian	03:31
00:29	Sanming	02:47
01:39	Yong'an	01:43
03:56	Zhangping	23:03
05:02	Hua'an	21:43
06:38	Guokeng	20:05
07:36	Jimei	19:03
07:54	Xiamen	18:34

Train Schedules Xiamen—Yingtan

397/396 O.	315 O.	75 EXP.	Train No. Station	76 EXP.	316 O.	396/395 O.
From Nanchang	From Nanjing	From Shanghai		To Shanghai	To Nanjing	To Nanchang
19:28	11:21	21:04	Yingtan	05:22	03:12	09:34
21:10	12:55	—	Zixi	—	01:37	07:39
—	14:12	—	Guangze	—	23:49	—
23:09	15:04	00:42	Shaowu	01:49	22:56	05:35
01:06	17:03	03:36	Shunchang	—	20:49	03:40
02:14	18:10	—	Laizhou	23:02	19:34	02:11
03:21	19:14	05:12	Shaxian	—	18:07	00:51
04:03	19:56	06:23	Sanming	21:21	17:27	23:56
05:14	21:15	08:58	Yong'an	20:14	16:25	22:47
07:34	23:42	—	Zhangping	17:53	14:06	20:11
08:41	00:58	11:57	Hua'an	—	12:38	18:43
10:20	02:38	12:26	Guokeng	15:01	10:57	17:06
—	03:09	—	Zhangzhou	14:30	10:25	—
11:24	04:27	14:04	Xiamen	12:50	08:53	15:50

Train Schedules Fuzhou—Yingtan

383/382 O.	377 O.	269/268* F.T.	61 EXP.	Train No. Station	62 EXP.	270/267* F.T.	378 O.	384/381 O.
From Nanchang	From Hangzhou	From Guangzhou				To Guangzhou	To Hangzhou	To Nanchang
00:09	07:10	19:28		Yingtan		09:34	02:00	04:11
02:28	09:05	21:10		Zixi		07:39	00:10	02:36
04:00	10:30	—		Guangze		—	22:22	01:14
04:50	11:19	23:09		Shaowu		05:35	21:35	00:28
06:44	13:07	01:06		Shunchang		03:40	19:40	22:08
07:53	14:30	02:14		Laizhou		02:11	18:40	20:53
08:43	15:15	02:57	13:55	Nanping	11:12	01:12	17:50	20:03
10:03	16:35	04:17	—	Gutian	—	23:34	16:30	18:38
11:09	17:35	—	—	Mingqing	—	—	15:20	17:26
11:49	—	—	—	Minhou	—	—	—	16:26
12:14	18:42	06:00	16:47	Fuzhou	08:18	21:43	14:13	15:53

EXP.—Express

F.T.—Fast through passenger train

O.—Ordinary passenger train

\*Departs every two days



# TOURING *Taiwan* ON YOUR OWN

Taiwan has a lot to offer, whether you have a month or only a few days to see it. The island's sea, land and air transport is very well developed, so it is very convenient for independent travellers. We give below a brief list of highlights.

## Taipei

Densely populated Taipei has undergone enormous changes during the past several years yet the Taiwan National Palace Museum situated in the northern suburb of Waishuanghsi is still a must. This museum houses the valuable antiques and art works, numbering over 600,000 pieces, which were taken to Taiwan in 1949. This is consequently the world's best museum on Chinese art, and antique and history lovers should make a point not to miss it. Other cultural sites worth visiting in Taipei include the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, the Fine Arts Museum, the National Taiwan University and the Chinese Culture & Movie Studio.

As for temples, the Lungshan Temple located near Huahsi Street in Wanhua District in the southern part of the city is the most frequented. The streets around the temple are known as 'Snake Alley' for the numerous shops serving snake dishes around the clock. Other temples in the vicinity include the Confucius Temple and Baoan Temple. The latter has an air of antiquity and is worth a visit.

Nightlife in Taipei is much more exciting and colourful than 'daylife'! For dining and shopping, apart from the Wanhua Night Market in the old city centre around Huahsi Street, visit the Yuanhuang Food Circle at the junction of Nanking West Road and Chung Ching North Road, the Shihlin Night Market in the vicinity of the Grand Hotel, or the Kungguan Night Market on Roosevelt Road. As for other entertainments, the numerous karaoke lounges, music TV centres, bars and nightclubs provide the visitor with ample choice.

## Northern Taiwan

Not far from Taipei, the coastal plain excels in scenic beauty. Taipei can be used as the base for excursions.

**Tanshui** An important university town and fishing harbour to the north of Taipei. Large crowds are attracted here during weekends, as seafood from Tanshui is said to be the freshest and cheapest. Visitors can also see Fort San Domingo, a relic of the Spanish occupation (1624-1642), which the locals call Hung Mao Cheng (Fort of the Red-Haired Barbarians). Tanshui is only an hour from

Map of Taiwan





Taipei by suburb train, passing en route the renowned hot spring resort of Peitou.

**Mount Yangming** The habitat of Taipei's rich, with abundant villas, gardens and trails, this is the perfect destination for people escaping Taipei's busy, noisy centre. In the spring time, when the peach trees bloom, the serenity is remarkable. This is part of Yang-ming National Park.

**Paishawan Beach and Chinshan Beach** Visitors to Taiwan seldom make special trips

Hualien, and then take the famous East-West Cross-Island Highway to Taichung on the west coast. This is the most scenic route, but takes at least one week.

**The Suao-Hualien Highway** Connecting Suao in the northeastern part of the island with Hualien, this is a narrow road hollowed out of cliffs hanging several hundred metres (up to 1,000 metres) above the Pacific Ocean. The road is itself an attraction, a thrilling experience. The single-track road means that

Chingshui Cliff (Nine Twisting Caves), the Liwuhsi Gorge, Tayuling Mountain, Tien-hsiang and Chilai Mountain. A good walking tour would be the section from Taroko Gorge to Tienhsiang, and could take from one to four days.

### Southeastern Taiwan

South of Hualien, continuing along the island's eastern coast, you come to a highly scenic area which is less visited.

**Taitung** Similar to Hualien, Taitung is a small town of tranquil charm. People use it as a stepping stone for exploring the areas round and about.

**The Southern Cross-Island Highway** Taiwan has a total of three cross-island highways which span its mountainous heart. Apart from the aforementioned East-West Cross-Island Highway and Taroko Gorge National Park, the gorge and spa of Wulu on the Southern Cross-Island Highway near to the northern part of Taitung are also worth a visit. Wulu is situated at the beginning of the highway on a plateau near Hsinwulu Stream. Homeland to the Punung nationality, its deep ravines are no less exciting than Taroko. In the vicinity of Wulu are four or five hot springs and mountain lodges provide spa services, the best treat at the end of a day of trekking.

**Chulu Pastureland** Situated to the east of the village of Chulu in Peinan, Taitung County, this is Taiwan's largest grazing ground with 54 hectares of grass. A stroll on the pastureland on a mild sunny day is a real pleasure. It can be reached directly by bus from Taitung.

**Chihpen Spa** The best-known resort in the vicinity of Taitung, located to the southwest of the city, Chihpen Spa has a gorge, a hot spring, a forest and makes a very good camp site. It is well equipped and conveniently located at the tip of the Southern Cross-Island Highway and has become a popular holiday destination for Taiwanese. Direct buses leave every thirty to sixty minutes during the daytime from the Tingtung Mountain Routes Bus Terminus in Taitung.

**Lanyu (Orchid Island)** The extremely windy climate of this small island off the coast of Taitung has given it quite a few bizarre-looking sea caves and cliffs. Yeyou Village and Kaiyuan Port are the two busiest places on the island. Nearby are wind-eroded volcanic rocks. Also of interest is the Yami nationality, the smallest of Taiwan's aboriginal groups. Generations of Yami people have lived on Lanyu and formed an almost self-sufficient fishing society. Much of their culture, very similar to that of the Philippines, has survived until today, especially the costumes and the art of boat-making.



Taipei's new railway station (by Tai Chi Yin)

to its beaches. Yet these beaches at the northern tip of Taiwan are good places during the hottest months, Chinshan having the better water. Take the train from Taipei to Keelung and change to a bus for Chinshan.

**Keelung** Taiwan's second largest port after Kaohsiung in the south, Keelung itself has little to see. What attracts tourists are its people's simple lifestyle and the coastal scenic area of Yehliu 15 kilometres north. Yehliu's rocks and boulders have been eroded by wind and waves into bizarre shapes, the most famous of which is the 'Queen's Head'.

**Window on China** A park which reproduces the best of China's buildings and historic sites on a scale of 1:25. Located near Taoyuan, west of Taipei.

### Northeastern Taiwan

The east coast has far less flat land and the mountains seem to tumble into the sea. The population on the east coast is only ten percent of the island's total. The best route from Keelung would be to head east and then south through the Plain of Ilan to reach

traffic in each direction is permitted alternately. Buses starting from Suao run only in the morning and those going to Suao run only in the afternoon. Since 1980, there has also been a rail link between Suao and Hualien.

**Hualien** Visitors arriving from Kaohsiung or Taipei will feel Hualien's relaxed atmosphere. There is nothing special to see in this coastal city but it is the gateway to the scenic Taroko Gorge National Park which forms the first section of the East-West Cross-Island Highway. Hualien has a lake for fishing, mountain trails for trekking, and a small river for boating.

**Taroko Gorge and the East-West Cross-Island Highway** Two million years ago, an orogenic movement exerted enormous pressure in eastern Taiwan and threw up mountain ranges, which were eroded by rivers to form the deep Taroko Gorge. The national park of the same name covers an area spreading over the counties of Hualien, Taichung and Nantou. The eastern section of the East-West Cross-Island Highway boasts many breathtaking sights such as the Hohuan Mountains (good for skiing in winter), the



Daily flights leave for Lanyu from Kaohsiung and Taitung. Ships leave twice a week from Taitung's Fukang Port, making en-route stops at Green Island.

**Green Island** In between Lanyu Island and Taitung is this even smaller island, its 15 square kilometres consisting of igneous rocks such as andesite and augite. In the southeast are sheer cliffs and rugged paths; the north-western shore is rocky with strange, protruding rocks; only the southwestern corner enjoys several kilometres of fine sandy beach.

Kaohsiung harbour. Tsoying, to the north, is the centre of historic relics such as the Confucian Shrine, Lotus Lake, Tsoying City Gate and Spring and Autumn Pavilion. Mount Fokuang (Light of Buddha) further north is the best-known Buddhist centre in Taiwan, characterized by its grand temple architecture. Special mini-buses run between Kaohsiung, Tsoying and Mount Fokuang. Moon World and the old town of Chishan are located close to Mount Fokuang. Moon World is unique among Taiwan's many scenic areas. As its

town, after Pingtung, in Pingtung County. Tungkan is attractive for its unsophisticated fishing village lifestyle. The fish market, the busiest in the area, bustles with activities such as bidding for and selling fish, and the density of temples marks another characteristic of Tungkan. Tunglung Palace Temple is the venue for 'Shao Wang Chuan', a ceremony held every three years to make offerings to the temple's deity, Prince Wen. Folklore has it that Prince Wen was a scholar who lived during the reign of the Tang Emperor Taizong (627-649). On an inspection tour, Prince Wen's fleet was wrecked and he died in a storm. As an expression of grief, Emperor Taizong ordered the making of a new vessel to carry Prince Wen's memorial tablet (a tablet inscribed with the deceased's name, believed to be able to guide and console the spirit) into the waters where he forever rested. The custom of offering paper boats to Prince Wen has been kept up to the present day. The next ceremony will take place in the ninth lunar month (approximately October) of 1991.

**Penghu Islands** Tourism never really had the opportunity to grow until recent years



On the East-West Cross-Island Highway (by Chapman Lee)

The climate is mild and spring seems eternal.

Sea transportation to Green Island is the same as that to Lanyu Island while several planes leave every day for the island from Taitung's Fungnien Airport.

### Southwestern Taiwan

The southwestern part of Taiwan consists of a massive plain and some hills and includes the four counties of Kaohsiung, Pingtung, Penghu and Tainan. This was the first region to be colonized and it still plays a leading role in culture, agriculture and economics. Tainan itself served as the island's capital for more than 200 years. The Penghu Islands and the Kenting National Park are the main natural highlights.

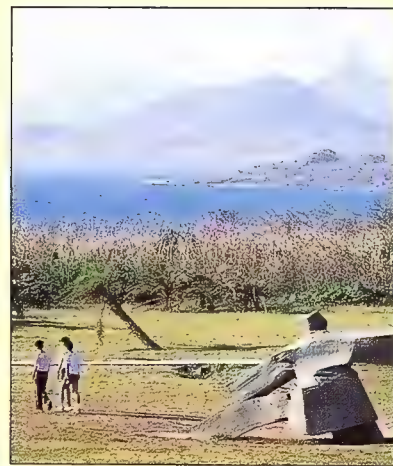
**Kaohsiung** The largest port and second biggest city in Taiwan, its major tourist sites include Lake Chengching; Chichin Island with its rustic lighthouse and Tienhou Temple; the city centre near Wufu Road and night market on Liuho Road.

In the suburbs, Wanshoushan (Longevity Hill) Park to the west of the city is the best vantage point for an overview of

name suggests, it consists of barren grayish-green alkaline rocks which form landscapes similar to those we see on photos of the surface of the moon, desolate and mysterious. Chishan used to have a flourishing sugar industry. Its streets are lined with red brick business houses built in Renaissance and Baroque styles with protruding semi-circular balconies. There are also balconies of unpolished stone, the only ones of their kind found in Taiwan. It may be better to stop over in Chishan when travelling from Kaohsiung to Tainan, as transport is relatively infrequent.

**Hsiao Liuchiu Island** Off the coast of Tungkan to the south of Kaohsiung, this is the only coral reef among Taiwan's fourteen islands and coral pieces can be found almost everywhere. There is a large fishing port on Hsiao Liuchiu Island and few tourists would miss a seafood feast in one of its many seafood restaurants. The boat ride from Tungkan to Hsiao Liuchiu Island takes fifty minutes.

**Tungkan** A large fishing port to the south of Kaohsiung, this is also the second largest



Kenting Park (by Chapman Lee)

with the relaxation of tensions between Taiwan and the mainland, but now it is flourishing and Penghu is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Taiwan. Yet it is not a commercialized tourist resort; it has kept its old relics and simple lifestyle intact. Makung, Wai'an, Paisha, Hsiaoamen and Chima have the largest fishing fleets, while Chipei has beautiful waters and fine sandy beaches. From Makung, the principal town of the archipelago, roads sprawl out in all directions and there are buses to various destinations. Those with a motorcycle licence can rent a motorbike at approximately HK\$100 per day (including gasoline) and explore on their own. There are direct flights



to Makung every day from Taipei, Kaohsiung, Tainan and Chiayi. Boats also reach Makung daily from Kaohsiung and Tainan's Putai Port; the trip takes two to three hours. Makung is where most hotels are located, with rates of HK\$200-300 per night.

**Tainan** If you only have time to visit one place in Taiwan, Tainan should be it. This is the oldest city in the whole of Taiwan, and was the capital until recent times. It is the best destination for those in search of the past. Major sights include the Confucius Shrine — the earliest of its kind in Taiwan, built in 1665; the Grand South Gate, built in 1723; Chihkan Towers, built on the site of Fort Providentia, and now Tainan Municipal History Museum; and the Martial Temple, the oldest temple in Taiwan dedicated to the martial deity Kuankung (Guan Yu). We should also mention the Palace of the Empress of Heaven, Mito Monastery, Kaiyuan Monastery, Chuhsi Monastery, Fort Anping (the former Fort Zeelandia), the Eternal Castle, Fahua Monastery and Koxinga's Shrine.

Three important temples in the suburbs of Tainan should also be visited. The first is the Nankunshen Temple, acknowledged to be the biggest, most colourful temple in Taiwan. It hosts five 'thousand-year-old prince' deities by the name of Li, Chi, Wu, Zhu and Fan. The religious ceremonies held here are extremely grand and should not be missed. The other two temples are the huge Matsu temples at Luermen (Deer Ear Gate) and Tucheng, constant rivals for the status of 'authentic Luermen Matsu Temple' (i.e. the one which hosts the original Matsu idol which Koxinga brought to Taiwan).

## West-Central Taiwan

Heading north up the western coast, one reaches Taichung and the massive coastal plains surrounding it, with huge mountains further inland. Here lie Taiwan's highest peak Yushan (Jade Mountain) and the renowned resorts of Mount Ali and Sun Moon Lake, making up Taiwan's most famous holiday destination.

**Chiayi** This small town is the gateway to the scenic resorts of Mount Ali, Mount Yushan and Sun Moon Lake. Apart from Wufeng Temple and Temple of the Earth God, Chiayi itself offers little, but has two interesting Matsu temples in its suburbs — the Chaotien Palace at Peikang and the Fungtien Palace at Hsinkang. Chaotien Palace is probably the Matsu temple which receives the most offerings and patronage in Taiwan, as we saw in the Special Features section. Fungtien Palace at Hsinkang is on a lesser scale but the amount of offerings is equally huge. The temple's architecture is old and worth

studying. Buses leave Chiayi train station frequently for Peikang and Hsinkang.

**Mount Ali** It attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists every year with its old narrow-gauge trains, its sunrise views and its numerous mountain trails. The narrow-gauge train climbs the mountain from Chiayi twice a day through spectacular forests and thrilling cliffs: cost HK\$130 (the bus costs only HK\$30). Having reached the mountain, follow different trails to explore the area and visit the 'Holy Log', Tzuyun Monastery, Three Gene-



*Kaohsiung by night (by Tai Chi Yin)*

rations Log', the Alishan Museum and Sisters Lake. Although these sights can be seen within three or four hours, it would be strenuous to do the entire visit in a single day. It is pleasant to spend a night on the mountain and descend the next day after enjoying the magnificent sunrise. Mount Ali is well equipped with good quality hotels and restaurants. Remember that the temperature on the mountain is low and woollen clothing is necessary.

**Mount Yushan** The main peak of the Yushan Range, rising 3,950 metres above sea-level, is not only the highest in Taiwan, but in all of Southeast Asia. A mountain permit is currently required to climb the mountain and can be applied for in Taipei by groups of not less than three persons. Climbers start from Mount Ali and walk for two hours to reach Paiyun Lodge where they spend the night to prepare for the climb to the peak the following day.

The wilderness surrounding Mount Ali and Mount Yushan has been opened into a network of mountain trails for trekkers. New destinations include Mount Fungshan, Mount

Chaoling, Taiho Lodge, Fungchihu, Duanli, Penglai Waterfall, Shuilien Cave and Hsitou. Detailed information is available from guide books and maps on sale.

**Sun Moon Lake** In the minds of most Taiwanese, Sun Moon Lake is associated with tranquillity and romance, and is a prime honeymooners' destination. Along the shores of Sun Moon Lake are many sights, including Wen Wu Temple, Peacock Garden, Kuang-hua Island, Husantsang Temple and the new Taiwan Aboriginal Culture Centre. Sun Moon Lake can be conveniently reached by bus from Taipei, Douliu and Taichung.

In the surrounding areas attractions include Puli, Wushe, Mount Lushan Hot Spring, Mount Hohuan and Chingtsing Farm, among which Mount Hohuan's skiing resort is the most outstanding.

**Lukang** Taiwan's second oldest town after Tainan, Lukang is very well maintained and gives off an air of antiquity. Stroll along Chungshan Road and marvel at the hundred-year-old stores making and selling traditional items such as candles, pastries, lanterns, shrines, paper offerings, incense tables and woodcarvings. A visit to Lukang will be more than rewarding for those interested in the older aspects of Taiwan. Lungshan (Dragon Mountain) Monastery and Tienhou (Matsu) Palace stand at either end of the major thoroughfare, Chungshan Road. Lungshan Monastery is an old Buddhist temple, as important as Tainan's Kaiyuan Monastery. The Tienhou Palace's status transcends that of all other Matsu temples in Taiwan because only it, and no other, is a branch of the original Matsu Temple on Meizhou Island in Fujian. Also on Chungshan Road is the Lukang Native Culture Museum which displays valuable relics telling about life during the past hundred years in Lukang.

To get to Lukang from Taipei or Kaohsiung, take the train and change to a bus at Changhua. Taichung and Changhua are two big modern cities in central Taiwan which offer little to the visitor. Yet they possess abundant accommodation and convenient transportation and can serve as springboards for visits to the smaller towns or into the mountains.

Continuing north via Hsinchu, the visitor soon completes a clockwise tour around the island and returns to Taipei.

## Tips on Travel in Taiwan

### Entry Regulations

Currently, everyone needs an entry permit to enter Taiwan for tourism purposes. Most travel agencies in Hong Kong will handle applications for a visa at a fee of about



HK\$200. Application time needed is three weeks. The visa is valid for six months; the number of entries permitted varies with different cases but most permits are for a single entry only.

Taiwan still practises foreign currency control. Travellers must declare all foreign currency, including cash and traveller's cheques, on entry. No more than NT\$8,000 can be taken in or out of Taiwan. Valuable photographic and video appliances are taxable items. Customs regulations are strict.

Penghu-Tainan; Penghu-Kaohsiung and Keelung-Hualien.

**By train:** Taiwan has a very good railway network; service frequencies are high and trains are punctual. The three major lines are Taipei-Kaohsiung, Taipei-Hualien and Hualien-Taitung, of which the former has the most frequent services. Trains in Taiwan can generally be divided into five categories: 1. Tzuchiang, express service with air-conditioned cars, making few stops; 2. Chukuang, also air-conditioned but making more stops

of HK\$150 to HK\$500 per night for double occupancy, depending on location and facilities. Generally speaking, a room at HK\$200 should be acceptable; but female travellers in particular should be careful that they are not checking into an establishment that rents by the hour! Some hotels provide adult video tapes and other related services, and those in big cities like Taipei and Kaohsiung tend to have a worse environment and demand higher prices.

Another option is youth hostels and cheap dormitory beds. Taiwan cities usually have teachers' clubs, educational establishments and labour centres which will take in travellers for HK\$50 to HK\$70 per bed per night and are particularly popular with foreign and student travellers. **Tai Chi Yin**

Translated by Chapman Lee



Yushan (Jade Mountain) (by Li Weijia)

### Getting There

There are up to 20 flights a day between Hong Kong and Taiwan. Yet the volume of travellers is also huge, especially during summer peak season. To get a seat on a flight from Kaohsiung to Hong Kong usually requires one month's advance booking, therefore it is wise for tourists to reserve a seat well ahead of their departure date. There are direct flights between Hong Kong, Taipei and Kaohsiung, but seats for these routings are equally scarce.

### Domestic Transport

**By air:** During the past few years, Taiwan's domestic air services have undergone enormous developments. Currently, the domestic carriers include Great China Airlines, Far East Air Transport, Yung Sing Airlines and Taiwan Aviation Corporation; their routings cover the various big cities and islands. Even places as small as Wang'an and Chimei in the Penghu Islands have scheduled flights, at very reasonable prices too.

**By sea:** Taiwan naturally has adequate maritime transport. Major routings are

so a little slower; 3. Fuhsing, air-conditioned, but making many stops; 4. Pingkuai, no air-conditioning, making many stops; and 5. Ordinary trains, no air-conditioning, stop at every station, mostly for short distances. The price varies depending on the category. A ride on a Tsuchiang train from Taipei to Kaohsiung will take four hours and cost around HK\$250.

**By coach/bus:** Of all long-distance transportation, this is the cheapest and most frequent and has already taken away much of the railway's potential custom. Currently, the two major classes of bus are the Kuokuang, which runs from Taipei to Kaohsiung, and the Chunghsing, which runs on other routes. The cost for aircon express coaches is usually two-thirds of the equivalent by train. The coach terminal is usually situated next to the train station in a Taiwanese city.

### Lodgings

There are many five-star hotels in Taiwan with rates even higher than in Hong Kong. But there are also medium and small hotels throughout Taiwan which charge in the area

### Taiwan and Fujian: Past Coverage in CHINA TOURISM

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## Arts and Crafts of Coastal Fujian

### ..... Fuzhou .....

#### Bodiless Lacquerware

Bodiless lacquerware was first produced about two hundred years ago in the Qing dynasty. It is said that the technique was invented in Fuzhou by a man named Shen Shao'an during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795). Shen was an expert at repairing lacquerware. One day he was called in to mend a crack on the horizontal board over the entrance to the *yamen*, the local government office. When he examined it, Shen found that the interior of the wooden board had rotted away but the exterior was still in basically good condition. This outside was actually a layer of lacquered cloth, which started Shen thinking. He reasoned that he could coat a 'body' of wood or some other suitable material with alternate layers of lacquer and cloth, let them dry hard to form the required shape, then remove the 'body'. This should result in a light yet durable article. He experimented repeatedly until he succeeded in developing what is now known as bodiless lacquerware.

The production of such lacquerware involves endless procedures that start with the 'body' itself, i.e. the base, which is made of clay or plaster moulded into the desired shape. It is then covered in layers of hemp or cloth and raw lacquer. After the mould has dried, a hole is punched in the bottom and the mould submerged in water. The clay or plaster base dissolves in the water, leaving the stiffened cloth and lacquer cast behind. Polishing, patterning and embellishing follow.

Lacquerware has proved to be resistant to acid and alkali, as well as insulating. Therefore, apart from being ornamental, it makes very practical yet charming household articles.

#### Shoushan Stone

Mount Shoushan, about 40 kilometres to the north of Fuzhou, is the source of the stone of the same name.

Shoushan stone falls into three categories: *tiankeng*, *shuikeng* and *shankeng*. *Tiankeng*, sometimes called *tianshi* (field stone), can be divided into four sorts according to whether it is red, yellow, black or white. It manifests a soft texture and is slightly translucent, with fine streaks vaguely seen. Sometimes the surface is wrapped with a yellow or dark-gray layer, occasionally with red streaks. Yellow *tiankeng* stone, as yellow as a loquat, has been called the 'King

of Stone'. It is very scarce and valuable. The yellow *tiankeng* seals used by Emperor Qianlong of the Qing dynasty — kept in the Palace Museum in Beijing — are actually three seals carved on a whole piece of yellow *tiankeng* stone connected by a movable chain. *Shuikeng* stone, fine in texture, is also very precious. The *shankeng* stone, scattered in mountains and streams, is the most common raw material used in carving.

Shoushan stone, as a result of its brilliant colours and suitability for carving, has become a major craft of Fuzhou. In 1965, a tomb of the Southern Dynasties (420-589) was excavated at Erfengshan near Fuzhou; two Shoushan stone pigs, products of more than 1,500 years ago, were among the objects found.

The traditional carving techniques fall into three categories: carving in the round, button carving and shallow carving. All sorts of human figures, Buddhas, arhats, birds and animals are carved in the round. Button carving developed on the basis of the carving of the emperor's jade seals and brass button decoration. Shallow carving is carving on a flat surface. Figures or landscapes are usually carved on a stone seal's small side (less than a square inch).

Shoushan stone carving has developed from small carvings on utilitarian objects to artistic, large, three-dimensional pieces.

#### Cork Pictures

Cork pictures are made from the bark of the oriental oak. As the bark layer of such trees is loose, soft and elastic, it is first cut into small pieces, then carved and assembled with glue to produce scenes of pavilions and towers, flowers and fine grass, human figures, birds and animals. Finally, it is mounted in a bodiless lacquerware frame.

#### Pingtang Shell Landscapes

Pingtang, the largest island in Fujian Province, teems with shells, snails and clams. Since 1959, arts and crafts such as Pingtang shell pictures, three-dimensional shell landscapes and potted landscapes of flowers and birds have been developed. Recently they have been combined with lacquerwork.

### ..... Xiamen .....

#### Lacquer Thread Sculpting

This is executed with lacquer paste rolled into thin threads. The threads are applied to

a base in patterns of human figures, birds, animals and flowers like a relief, and then coloured or gilded. The technique was first applied to the decoration of figures of Buddha during the Tang dynasty, and flourished in the Qing dynasty when such figures were already known far and wide. Today this technique has been adapted to the decoration of porcelain and glassware. For a long time, themes focused on traditional folk subjects, with dragon, phoenix, lion, clouds and water in particular. In recent years, works on modern subjects have been produced.

### ..... Zhangzhou .....

#### Cotton Pictures

Zhangzhou cotton pictures use absorbent white cotton, resin and gold thread as raw materials, making use of the techniques of relief carving and plastic moulding, combined with traditional Chinese painting. The cotton collages fall into several varieties, including scrolls with subjects ranging from landscapes, flowers and birds, to animals.

To preserve the bright colours of a cotton picture, it should be kept in a dry place, avoiding direct sunlight and smoke pollution.

### ..... Quanzhou .....

#### Hui'an Stone Carving

Hui'an County, under the direct jurisdiction of Quanzhou, is well known for its masonry work. The raw materials employed are green stone, granite, etc. Hui'an stone carving originated from architectural decoration, as shown by the stone relief of flower patterns excavated from tombs of the Tang dynasty. During the Ming and Qing dynasties there were generations of highly skilled sculptors and stonemasons in Hui'an, and artistic Hui'an green stone carvings were widely distributed throughout Fujian and neighbouring areas. Typical examples are the stone lions in the Yuanmiaoquan (a Taoist temple) in Quanzhou, the Kaihua Temple in Fuzhou, the decorations in the Yongquan Temple in Gushan near Fuzhou, the decorative carvings in the Guanghua Temple in Nanjing, the large dragon pillar in the Lungshan Temple in Taipei, Taiwan, and so on.



## Puppet Heads

The carved puppet heads of Quanzhou, exquisite and delicate, not only preserve the style of the Tang and Song dynasties, but also demonstrate local features. Two types of puppets are popular in the Quanzhou area: marionettes, and glove puppets or 'cloth bag puppets'. There are thus two kinds of carved heads as well: three-inch long marionette heads and one-inch long heads for glove puppets. Puppet shows in the Quanzhou area are profound in content and have an abundance of characters which demand a complete variety of carved heads, not only those of *sheng* (young hero), *dan* (young heroine), *chou* (clown), etc., but also of animals, monsters, gods and goddesses.

It is said that, during the Qianlong period

in the Qing dynasty, there were a great number of shops dealing in wooden images in the city of Quanzhou. Some of the makers' names are still famous. In more recent times, one of the best-known was Jiang Jiazou, son of a craftsman skilled in carving figures of Buddha and wooden heads, who learned this craft from childhood, and made careful observation and study of physiognomy in real life. In his opinion, human heads are categorized by five shapes and three bones, namely, eye, mouth, nose, eyebrow and ear, and brow, cheekbone and chin. He developed Quanzhou puppet show characters from only 60 or 70 to more than 280. Jiang Jiazou's artistic achievements attracted much attention overseas. The Shanghai People's Publishing House published

a large-sized album *Jiang Jiazou's Wood Carved Figures*. After his death, Jiang Chaoxuan, his son, carried on the tradition and created some 30 new figures.

## Putian

### Longan Wood Carving

Longan wood is fine in texture and suitable for long preservation. Carvings from longan wood are unique in style, bold and unrestrained. Putian has been known for such carvings since the Tang dynasty. Today the techniques of openwork carving and relief carving have been much improved and updated.

Translated by Tsui Lai Hing

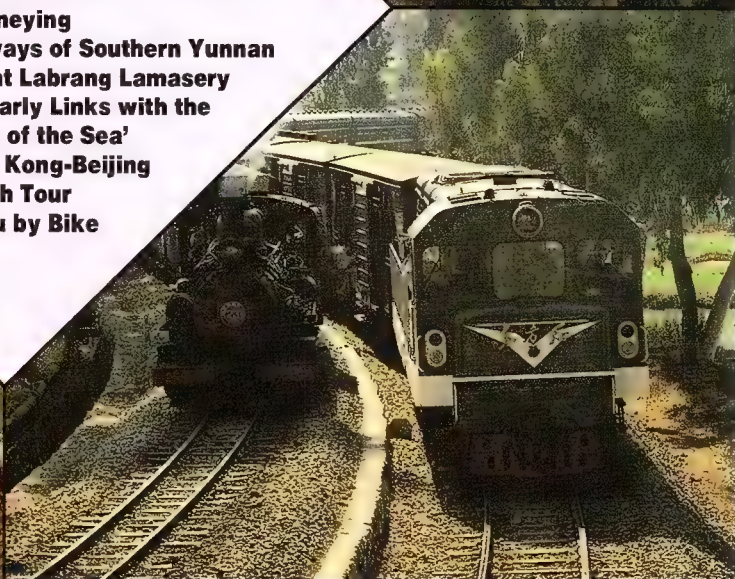
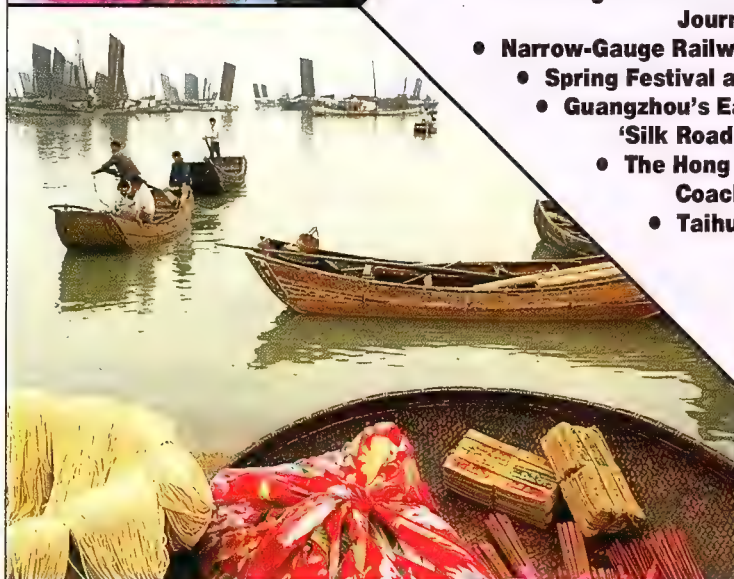
# CHINA-WIDE SPECIAL

N E X T  
I S S U E



The major focus of this issue, which ranges widely throughout China, will be on the various possibilities of travelling through this vast land, some of them only recently permissible to foreigners:

- The Length and Breadth of China — A Year's Journeying
- Narrow-Gauge Railways of Southern Yunnan
  - Spring Festival at Labrang Lamasery
  - Guangzhou's Early Links with the 'Silk Road of the Sea'
  - The Hong Kong-Beijing Coach Tour
  - Taihu by Bike





## Air Travel News

As of November 1, two new air routes link Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province in northwestern China, with Yantai and Ningbo in Shandong and Zhejiang, respectively, on the east coast. There is a return flight between Lanzhou and Yantai via Beijing every Thursday. The return flight between Lanzhou and Ningbo, also via Beijing, is every Sunday.

In October, Air China took delivery of its first wide-bodied freighter — a Boeing 747-200F — at Boeing's headquarters in Seattle. The freighter can transport up to 111,500 kilos of cargo over a distance of 6,500 kilometres. Air China currently operates six 747 passenger-cum-cargo planes and ordered Boeing aircraft worth \$4.2 billion earlier this year. Boeing has been one of China's partners in commercial aviation since 1972.

A more recent development since mid-December 1990, is the inauguration of a direct charter flight between Hong Kong and Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. There is a one-hour flight in each direction on Tuesdays and Fridays: dep. Nanning 15:40, arr. Hong Kong 16:40; dep. Hong Kong 17:40, arr. Nanning 18:30.

## Mawangdui Medical Books

The many treasures excavated from the No. 3 Han-dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) tomb at Mawangdui near Changsha in Hunan include a number of medical books. Over the last ten years, Chinese medical experts have published more than 300 theses on their research. The books cover internal medicine, surgery, gynaecology, obstetrics and pediatrics. Three deal with acupuncture and keep-fit exercises. One book detailing fifty-two prescriptions is said to be the earliest of the around 8,000 ancient medical works so far found in China, predating even the *Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine*.

## Another Ming Tomb Opened

Zhaoling, one of the thirteen Ming (1368-1644) tombs which lie some fifty kilometres northwest of Beijing proper, is now partly open to the public. This is the mausoleum of the thirteenth emperor of the Ming dynasty, Muzong (reign dates 1567-1573), and his three wives. The tomb is set just south of the huge Dingling, tomb of Emperor Wanli (reign dates 1573-1619), where the 'underground palace' can be visited.

## Nagqu-Qamdo Highway Improvements

Listed as a key construction project during the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-1990), work to improve the road between Nagqu, north of Lhasa, and Qamdo in eastern Tibet is reported to have been completed in November. The 748-kilometre section is part of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway, one of the highest roads in the world at an average of over 3,000 metres above sea-level.

## Nature's Sleeping Buddha

Strange to relate, it has recently been noticed that a huge Sleeping Buddha is formed by three hills — Wuyou, Lingyun and Guicheng — which surround the 71-metre-tall Great Buddha at Leshan in Sichuan Province. Head to the south and feet to the north, the formation stretches for four kilometres, seeming to lie along the River Qingyi. Strangest of all: the Leshan Buddha is located precisely over the 'heart' of the natural Sleeping Buddha!

## International Hunting Ground

The Mulan International Hunting Ground, 150 kilometres from Chengde in northern Hebei and 380 kilometres north of Beijing, has opened to foreign visitors. Covering an area of 3,000 square kilometres, it is home to leopards, wild boars, lynx, badgers, wolves, foxes, deer, and many species of wildfowl. It used to be part of the hunting grounds of the Manchu emperors of the Qing dynasty.

## More Places Declared Open

A total of 689 counties and cities are now open to foreign tourists; in other words, a further twenty-five places have been added to the list lately.

These are, in Heilongjiang, Fujin; in Shanxi, Jincheng; in Jilin, Fuyu, Da'an, Tao'an, and the Qian Gorlos Mongol Autonomous County. The rest of the places are in Henan Province: the city of Dengzhou and the counties of Fangcheng, Xinye, Tanghe, Tongbai, Zhenping, Sheqi, Nanyang, Xixian, Huangchuan, Luoshan, Xiping, Suiping, Runan, Shangshui, Huaiyang, Taikang, Minquan and Shangqiu.

## Fujian Holiday Village

The Liyuan (Lychee Garden) Holiday Village opened recently in Fujian's Minhou County. It is located 18 kilometres upstream of the provincial capital, Fuzhou, on the north bank of the River Minjiang in a most picturesque setting with mountains all around. There is a large beach (pleasure boats can be hired), as well as a café, restaurant, and dance hall. Mongolian yurts and bamboo huts are available for accommodation. Future developments will include a golf course, children's centre, etc.

## Neolithic Remains in Eastern Tibet

Since the discovery of remains of what has been termed the Karuo Culture in Tibet's Qamdo Prefecture in the early 1980s, archaeologists from local research institutions and from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Archaeology have conducted two large-scale excavations at the site.

The ruins of 28 houses, 7,968 stone tools, 366 bone implements, 20,000 pottery pieces, 50 ornaments, a large quantity of millet, and animal bones were unearthed. Radiocarbon testing of the relics has indicated that they date back 3,930 to 4,655 years. Studies have shown that the items are identical to those found at Yangshao in Henan, Majiayao in Gansu and Dawenkou in Shandong, also Neolithic sites, leading some experts to the conclusion that the farming techniques and lifestyle in this area were much the same as in the Huanghe (Yellow River) Valley at that epoch.



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